



SPORTS

Top rusher

Running back Jeremy Hull could be Stanton's first single-season 2,000-yard rusher./1C



LOCAL

Scooter safety

Popularity of the kickboard scooter raises concern about the safety of children who ride them./1B

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'Graduation should be a recognition of complete achievement on the part of students in public education ...'

— James Fuller

Board continues debate on graduation requirements

■ MISD students who don't pass TAAS might not be able to participate in graduation ceremony.

By Danielle Belton
Staff Writer

Is it a simple ceremony or just the perpetuation of the "big lie?"

At the Nov. 28 meeting of the Midland Independent School District board of trustees, board members couldn't reach a decision regarding whether or not they should start allowing Midland high school seniors who do not pass the TAAS, but finish other graduation requirements, participate in their graduation ceremony.

"Graduation should be a recognition of complete achievement on the part of students in public

education just as it is in other levels of education," said MISD board member James Fuller. "For us to allow students to graduate without completing all of the requirements is to set them up for unrealistic expectations or accomplishment."

Fuller argued that it was important to keep current policy in place that maintains that only students who fulfill all graduation requirements and pass the TAAS may march with their student class while the band plays "Pomp and Circumstance."

"It concerns me that we are perpetuating the 'big lie,'" Fuller said. "It's unfortunate that we would use our platform of education to contradict the very character traits — honesty in particular — that we have taught these students or supposedly have taught for 13 years."

It was board member Rebecca Oekerman who originally proposed the idea of a rewrite

in the current graduation ceremony policy that does not allow students who fail the TAAS to participate. She, along with fellow board member Dale Strauss disagreed with Fuller's hard-line stance.

"I understand exactly where Mr. Fuller comes from," Strauss said. "My difference with him is I think we will have more incentive getting the kids to accomplish that by giving them every opportunity available (to take the TAAS)."

According to Lee High School Principal George Cooper, before adoption about three years ago of the policy that restricted students who failed the TAAS from participating, students had the option of attending graduation if they used every possible avenue available to take the TAAS and attended all of the TAAS tutorial sessions.



'... We will have more incentive getting the kids to accomplish that by giving them every opportunity ... (to take the TAAS).'

— Dale Strauss

Please see MISD/4A

Bush, Gore act like presidents-in-waiting



By Ron Fournier
AP Political Writer

Al Gore raced between TV interviews Wednesday asking, "Will we count all the votes or not?" while his lawyers urgently sought a high court ruling with the answer he wanted. Both Democrat Gore and GOP rival George W. Bush pressed forward with separate blueprints for building a presidency.

"On Jan. 20, a President Bush will be ready to take the reins of the government," said top adviser Andy Card — awarding his boss a title that Gore still hopes will be his.

Bracing the public for more legal wrangling, the vice president said he was prepared to fight until "the middle of December" and suggested the dispute could drag past the Dec. 12 deadline for appointing state electors — to six days later when the Electoral College meets.

With the stakes so high, the Republican-dominated Florida Legislature inched closer to securing Bush a backup plan: House Speaker Tom Feeney said Wednesday he is convinced lawmakers need to go into special session as early as next week to name its own slate of presidential electors. And Senate President John McKay agreed that was a "reasonable conclusion."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the candidate's brother, said he would sign the necessary legislation "if it was the appropriate thing to do."

Still, with the recount case headed to the highest court in the land, Jeb Bush said, "The United States Supreme Court trumps the Legislature." Gore himself told CNN that Florida voters would not stand for "the expression of their will taken away by politicians."

Gore is trying to overturn official results of the decisive Florida election before the public's patience runs out on the 22-day ordeal. "I certainly believe that I did" win the White House, Gore told NBC.

Needing a quick court victory, Gore authorized his divided legal team to ask the Florida Supreme Court to recount contested ballots or order a lower court to do it, two Democratic legal sources said late Wednesday.

AP Photo

A U.S. Supreme Court police officer places parking restriction signs near the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington on Wednesday in preparation for Friday's appeals by the campaign of Gov. George W. Bush.

Please see ACT/4A

State GOP leader thinks Bush will be able to cross party lines

By Isela Agundis
MRT Correspondent

Despite the highly charged partisan atmosphere surrounding the ongoing struggle for the White House, Gov. George W. Bush will be able to cross the political aisle and work with Democrats if and when he officially assumes office, according to a state Republican leader who was in Midland Wednesday.

Denise McNamara, Republican national committeewoman for

Texas, was the guest speaker at the Midland County Young Republicans' monthly luncheon.

Although the country has been portrayed as being split down the middle, Ms. McNamara said "only 50 percent of Americans voted so only 25 percent actually voted for Gore. The country is not necessarily as divided as some have made it out to be."

Ms. McNamara also pointed to Bush's record of bipartisan accomplishments while working with the Texas Legislature.

During the presidential cam-

paign, one of Bush's recurring themes was his willingness to work with both parties in Washington. He reportedly is seeking at least one high-profile Democrat to name to his Cabinet, if he eventually becomes president.

Ms. McNamara was also critical of the Clinton administration for not releasing to Bush federal funds that have been earmarked for the official transition from Clinton to the new administration.

Clinton officials have said that would be inappropriate until an official winner has been declared.

But Ms. McNamara said the machine count, hand recount and the Florida certification all show Bush to be "the obvious winner."

"He (Bush) is proceeding regardless of what they do to try and block him," Ms. McNamara said. "He is putting the country first by trying to go ahead with preparations. He's not complaining, but he is fighting."

Accusations from both parties about voting irregularities in the election have abounded and Ms.

Please see PARTY/4A



'He (Bush) is proceeding regardless of what they do to try and block him. He is putting the country first by trying to go ahead with preparations. He's not complaining, but he is fighting.'

— Denise McNamara,
Republican national
committeewoman for
Texas

Smith anxious to begin dealing with county business

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

Midland County Commissioner-elect Jimmy Smith is bringing a background in commercial real estate, retail sales and law enforcement into his four-year term on the Commissioners' Court beginning in 2001.

"I'm anxious to get in there and just start to deal with each problem as they come," said the 53-year-old Republican, who is joining Democratic Commissioner-elect J. sie Ramirez as the newest two members on the five-member court.

They will be joining a young court beginning in January 2001 when they succeed veteran Commissioners Henry Goulet and Louisa Valencia.

Republican Goulet, 79, of Precinct 1 will have eight years on the court at year's end and will be succeeded by Smith.

Democratic Commissioner Mrs. Valencia, 68, will have gained 12 years experience as commissioner at end of 2000. Mrs. Ramirez, a retiring public-school library assistant, is her

successor.

Four of the five members of the Commissioners' Court are Republicans.

"I'm excited about (the new court)," Smith said. "We all are going to be able to work real well together. Each of us is going to bring something to the court that will benefit it. We all have our different expertise."

The three carry-over members of the court each have two years in office: County Judge Bill Morrow and Commissioners Mike Bradford of Precinct 2 and Randy Prude of Precinct 4.

"Jimmy (Smith) is bringing tremendous opportunity to review and assist in our (county wide) facility and space-planning needs," Bradford said in referring to

Smith's real-estate background. "We have started planning our space needs."

Of Mrs. Ramirez, Bradford said, "It is very exciting to have the unique perspective of her library background to match with our new (county) librarian (Denise Johnson), who is bringing some innovative ideas" to her bailiwick in county government.

Of his new court cohorts in 2001, Prude said, "I am really looking forward to working with them. They are going to be real good to work with. We are going to have another good working situation."

Morrow said that Smith "will bring a dimension to the court that will be helpful — his business experience, as well as his familiarity with the Sheriff's Office operation."

Smith, a Texas-certified peace officer who is a reserve deputy sheriff under Sheriff Gary Painter, will be an "excellent liaison" with the Sheriff's Department, Morrow said.

Mrs. Ramirez, he said, is "a solid citizen." Of issues confronting the court, Smith cit-

Please see SMITH/4A

A look inside

TODAY
Sunny with high in upper 60s.
Weather on 4A.

Ed Todd

Childhood memories are a blessing.
Page 1B

Off the wire
■ Rookie police officer blows whistle on 'The Riders' /3A
■ Trial of suspect in Cole bombing could put Yemeni justice system on trial /8A

Bridge 7B
Business & Oil 5C
Classified 3D
Comics 5B
Crossword 7B
Dear Abby 2D
Deaths 2B
Local 1B
Movies 4B
Opinion 6A
Que Pasa? 1D
Sports 1C
TV Schedule 7B
Weather 4A

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Report: Money laundering easy in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is fairly easy for foreigners to hide their identities and set up shell companies to launder money in the United States, congressional investigators have found.

They say U.S. giant Citibank and Commercial Bank of San Francisco violated control rules and allowed some \$1 billion in possibly illicit Eastern European money to move through their accounts.

"These transfers raise concerns that the U.S. banking system may have been used to launder money," the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, said in a report on its nine-month inquiry. "We have referred the information developed to appropriate law enforcement and regulatory agencies."

The report was released Wednesday.

New York-based Citibank, one of the world's largest banks with operations around the globe, came under congressional scrutiny a year ago for alleged

abuses by some executives in handling millions of dollars deposited by foreign officials later accused of corruption and money laundering. John Reed, then the co-chairman of parent Citigroup Inc., was closely questioned about the bank's activities at a Senate investigative hearing that opened a window on the sheltered world of private banking that caters to the very wealthy.

Citibank on Tuesday sent a letter to the GAO saying it had closed the accounts in question after being contacted by the congressional investigators earlier this year.

"It is clear in hindsight that our systems and tracking procedures were not sufficient to detect the nature and extent" of a client's relationship with the bank, wrote Michael Ross, general counsel of the bank's Global Consumer Business division.

The client, though not named in the report, was identified by a congressional source as Irakly Kaveladze, a Russian immi-

grant. He set up more than 2,000 corporations registered in Delaware for Russian brokers and then opened the Citibank accounts for them, according to the GAO report.

The conclusions of the report and Ross' letter were first reported Wednesday by The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Citigroup spokesman Michael Schlein said Wednesday the company would have no further comment. "The letter speaks for itself," he said.

Far less well-known is Commercial Bank of San Francisco. According to the GAO report, its president told the investigators that two Russians bought about 9 percent of its stock for \$1 million in March 1995.

A woman answering the telephone at Commercial Bank said no one was available to answer questions.

"It is relatively easy for foreign individuals or entities to hide their identities while forming shell corporations that can be

used for the purpose of laundering money," the GAO report said.

It said Citibank and Commercial Bank of San Francisco "violated the principles" of banking industry policies requiring financial institutions to monitor account activities for suspicious transactions or customers.

Public attention focused on money laundering after it was revealed last year that the Bank of New York, one of the nation's largest, had served as a conduit for an astonishing \$7 billion in Russian money, some of it believed to be from criminal activities.

Money laundering, in which profits from drug trafficking, prostitution and other criminal activities are moved through a series of bank or brokerage accounts to make them appear to be proceeds of legitimate business activity, is estimated to absorb close to \$600 billion a year. That equates to 5 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

Two health insurance associations form lobby

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two powerful health insurance associations are merging, forming a giant lobby that will speak with one voice as it fights against a patients' bill of rights and other government regulations.

The Health Insurance Association of America, which represents traditional health insurance companies, and the American Association of Health Plans, which represents managed care companies, will announce on Thursday their intent to merge, said two people familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The merger represents the changing face of health insurance in America, where there was once a clear distinction between traditional insurance plans and health maintenance organizations.

Today, most health insurance companies offer both traditional plans, where patients can go to any doctor or hospital, and less costly managed care plans, where they must choose a doctor from a list. Most also offer preferred provider organizations, or PPOs, in which patients may choose from a list of doctors or go elsewhere if they are willing to pay extra.

"The lines have all blurred, big time," said Bill Pierce, spokesman for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, which will continue to represent health plans that are part of that company.

The merging organizations have many of the same members and are typically on the same side of the issues in Washington. Both have vigorously fought efforts to impose a patients' bill

of rights, which would require health plans to include certain treatments in their benefit packages. It would also allow patients to take complaints to independent panels and — most controversially — allow them to file lawsuits if they are denied care.

HIAA may be best known for fighting First Lady Hillary Clinton's 1994 plan to provide health insurance for all Americans. It spent \$17 million on a series of commercials featuring Harry and Louise, a fictional middle-aged couple who warned Americans that government bureaucrats would take over their health coverage.

For its part, AAHP has fought hard for increased Medicare payments for HMOs.

Together, the organizations hope they will carry more clout than either does on its own, but outsiders aren't sure.

"It will probably make them a more cost-effective lobby," said Paul Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change. "They'll be able to spend their resources better and won't have to spend time coordinating."

"They've gone from two voices to one," said Judy Waxman of Families USA, a consumer group that is often at odds with the insurance industry.

"Obviously it's a bigger voice, but if you had two strong voices that's sometimes better than one if you're trying to get a point across."

AAHP represents about 1,000 health insurance plans, while HIAA represents nearly 300. HIAA also represents companies that offer long-term care and disability insurance, whereas AAHP is strictly health insurance.

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Illinois man kills six-point deer with pocket knife

HERRIN, Ill. (AP) — A man out for a walk in the woods killed a deer with a pocket knife after the animal charged him.

Paul Cheatham, 61, said he grabbed the six-point, 130-pound buck by the horns when it attacked. He then held it with one hand, opened a pocketknife with his mouth and jabbed the deer in the rib cage.

"I knew if I let him go, he would kill me," Cheatham said. "I hung on and got my legs around his neck. We wrestled around quite a while."

Cheatham suffered bruises over much of his body.

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Oakland

By Kim Curran
Associated Press

OAKLAND — Keith Batt was a rookie just through academy. He was on night shift, working their careers.

There, on a plain, one of the generous neighbors, The Riders.

For three July, prosecutor watched his father harass and fall 10 people. The allegedly saw trumped-up charges seen discarded cocaine.

Batt had seen The rookie saw and quit the motion a police deal that has four officers and scores of cases.

Exactly how Riders scandal to be seen, de Richard Wor the alleged ab the four officers.

"It's burying sand to assume confined to a s involving the said lawyer Jo talked to at least ed by The Riders.

The four of Vazquez, 44, Mabanag, 35, and Matthew were charged with including a and filing false expected to ent Vazquez is a fu be hiding in M.

Lawyers for who are on pa have seen no ev the charges. Michael Rains are "both sad a their stories h lawyer has not calls.

While the c to what Batt department is officers' recor

Chronic grows than e

WASHINGTON — Nearly half of at least one everything from disease — 20 doctors had an researchers sa

And they v growing toll, among a popu lion, will rea 2020. One-f have two or nesses, comp and making i

The nation cope with the chronic dise medical bills almost double 2020. Dr. G Baltimore's J versity told a day of 1,000 cialists.

While do major advanc chronic illne percent of all the federal Control and convened the ways to bett long-term il

It's a diff because so eases qualif may not kill a lifetime doctor visit require ever therapy, sur the other ex disease, e round-the-c

Preventi management nutrition, assessments stave off m But it takes a prescripti reimburse

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Then he physician's betic pati farmer w for a 20-m time to tes adjust me says helpi would do not paid to Already cans suffe nesses, a reach 81 population reported.

Oakland struggles with 'The Riders' police scandal

By Kim Curtis
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Officer Keith Batt was a 23-year-old rookie just three weeks out of the academy. He went straight to the night shift, where most officers start their careers.

There, on patrol in west Oakland, one of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods, Batt met The Riders.

For three weeks in June and July, prosecutors say, the rookie watched his fellow officers beat, harass and falsely arrest at least 10 people. Then, on July 3, he allegedly saw a man arrested on trumped-up charges that he was seen discarding 17 rocks of cocaine.

Batt had seen enough.

The rookie reported what he saw and quit the force, setting in motion a police corruption scandal that has led to the arrest of four officers and the dismissal of scores of cases.

Exactly how far and wide The Riders scandal will reach remains to be seen, despite Police Chief Richard Word's insistence that the alleged abuse was limited to the four officers.

"It's burying one's head in the sand to assume these cases are confined to a short period of time involving these four officers," said lawyer John Burris, who has talked to at least 15 people arrested by The Riders about suing.

The four officers — Frank Vazquez, 44, Clarence "Chuck" Mabanag, 35, Jude Siapno, 32, and Matthew Hornung, 29 — were charged Nov. 2 with offenses including assault, kidnapping and filing false reports. Three are expected to enter pleas on Dec. 6; Vazquez is a fugitive, believed to be hiding in Mexico.

Lawyers for the three officers, who are on paid leave, said they have seen no evidence backing up the charges. Mabanag's lawyer, Michael Rains, said the officers are "both sad and anxious to have their stories heard." Vazquez's lawyer has not returned repeated calls.

While the charges are limited to what Batt witnessed, the department is re-examining the officers' records and looking at

whether other members of the force were involved.

Prosecutor David Hollister said 49 mostly drug-related cases — convictions and pending cases alike — have been dismissed and more could fall apart as his office sorts through all cases involving the four officers dating back 18 months before they were taken off the streets.

Community advocates said calls and letters are pouring in from people saying they were mistreated by The Riders, and several lawsuits are expected.

Some fear juries may not be so quick to trust the word of police officers anymore.

And everyone hears echoes of the Rampart scandal that rocked the Los Angeles Police Department this year. Three Los Angeles officers have been convicted of framing suspects, more than 100 cases have been thrown out and more than 70 civil rights suits have been filed. The city attorney estimated the scandal could cost Los Angeles at least \$125 million.

According to Batt, his training officer, Mabanag, warned him after he joined the force not to be a "snitch." And his superior officer, Vazquez, told him to forget everything he had learned at the academy as he worked the streets of west Oakland, a poor, mostly black section.

It is hard to find people in west Oakland who have not had or heard about a run-in with The Riders, particularly Vazquez. Nicknamed "Choker," the officer is short with close-cropped hair.

a pockmarked face and an earring. He bears a tattoo with his wife's name, Pilar, on his right arm.

The Oakland department had reason to be proud before the scandal broke. Crime in the city of 370,000 had dropped 15.8 percent from 1998 to 1999, more than twice the national average.

Mayor Jerry Brown, who demanded the resignation of Oakland's popular police chief shortly after taking office and replaced him with Word last July, had made safer streets a key part of his economic development message, arguing that Oakland is on the rebound and ready for the same infusion of money from high-tech companies that have poured into San Francisco and other Bay Area cities.

"The vast majority of people would like to see more police in Oakland and no slackening in the vigilance against crime," Brown said Tuesday. As for the scandal, "you're talking about a fraction of the police department, and people make mistakes. We're taking corrective steps."

Some critics said officers are under too much pressure to produce arrests.

"Many of these officers are young people in their 20s and when they hear the mayor of a

city making warlike statements, that this drug activity should be stopped at any cost, those directives can be misapplied. That may be what happened here," said Jim Chanin, a lawyer who has filed the first federal civil rights lawsuit in the scandal.

Chanin's client, 19-year-old Rodney Mack — the young man whose arrest prompted Batt to report his colleagues — alleges police planted crack in his pocket when they broke up a dice game. He spent more than a month in jail before the charges were dismissed.

"They could've arrested him for playing dice," Chanin said. "There was pressure to clean up the area and what better way to show that than with a large number of drug arrests?"



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Chronic illness grows faster than expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half of Americans suffer at least one chronic disease, everything from allergies to heart disease — 20 million more than doctors had anticipated this year, researchers say.

And they warn that the fast-growing toll, now at 125 million among a population of 276 million, will reach 157 million by 2020. One-fifth of Americans have two or more chronic illnesses, complicating their care and making it more expensive.

The nation is unprepared to cope with the growing burden of chronic disease, with annual medical bills alone expected to almost double to \$1.07 trillion by 2020, Dr. Gerard Anderson of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University told a meeting Wednesday of 1,000 chronic disease specialists.

While doctors have made major advances in treating certain chronic illnesses, they cause 70 percent of all U.S. deaths, reports the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which convened the meeting to explore ways to better prevent and fight long-term illness.

It's a difficult subject partly because so many different diseases qualify. Simple allergies may not kill someone, but require a lifetime of medication and doctor visits. Heart disease can require even more complex drug therapy, surgery and testing. At the other extreme is Alzheimer's disease, eventually requiring round-the-clock care.

Preventive care — weight management, disease screening, nutrition, exercise, geriatric assessments for the elderly — can stave off many chronic diseases. But it takes longer than writing a prescription, and few insurers reimburse fully, Anderson said.

He quoted an insurance director who said his patients demand payment for such care as in vitro fertilization, not ways to prevent illnesses they might not get for decades.

Then he cited a rural Maryland physician's lament about his diabetic patient, an overweight farmer whose insurance pays for a 20-minute visit, just enough time to test his blood sugar and adjust medication. The doctor says helping the man lose weight would do more good, but he is not paid to do that.

Already 60 million Americans suffer multiple chronic illnesses, a number expected to reach 81 million by 2020 as the population ages, Anderson reported.

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WEATHER

Midland forecast

3-day forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
High upper 60s	High near 60	High 50
Low 35-40	Low mid-30s	Low 30s

Today's forecast calls for sunny skies and higher temperatures with southerly winds of 10 to 20 mph and a high in the upper 60s, according to the National Weather Service at Midland International Airport.

Tonight's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and lower temperatures in the 35-40-degree range.

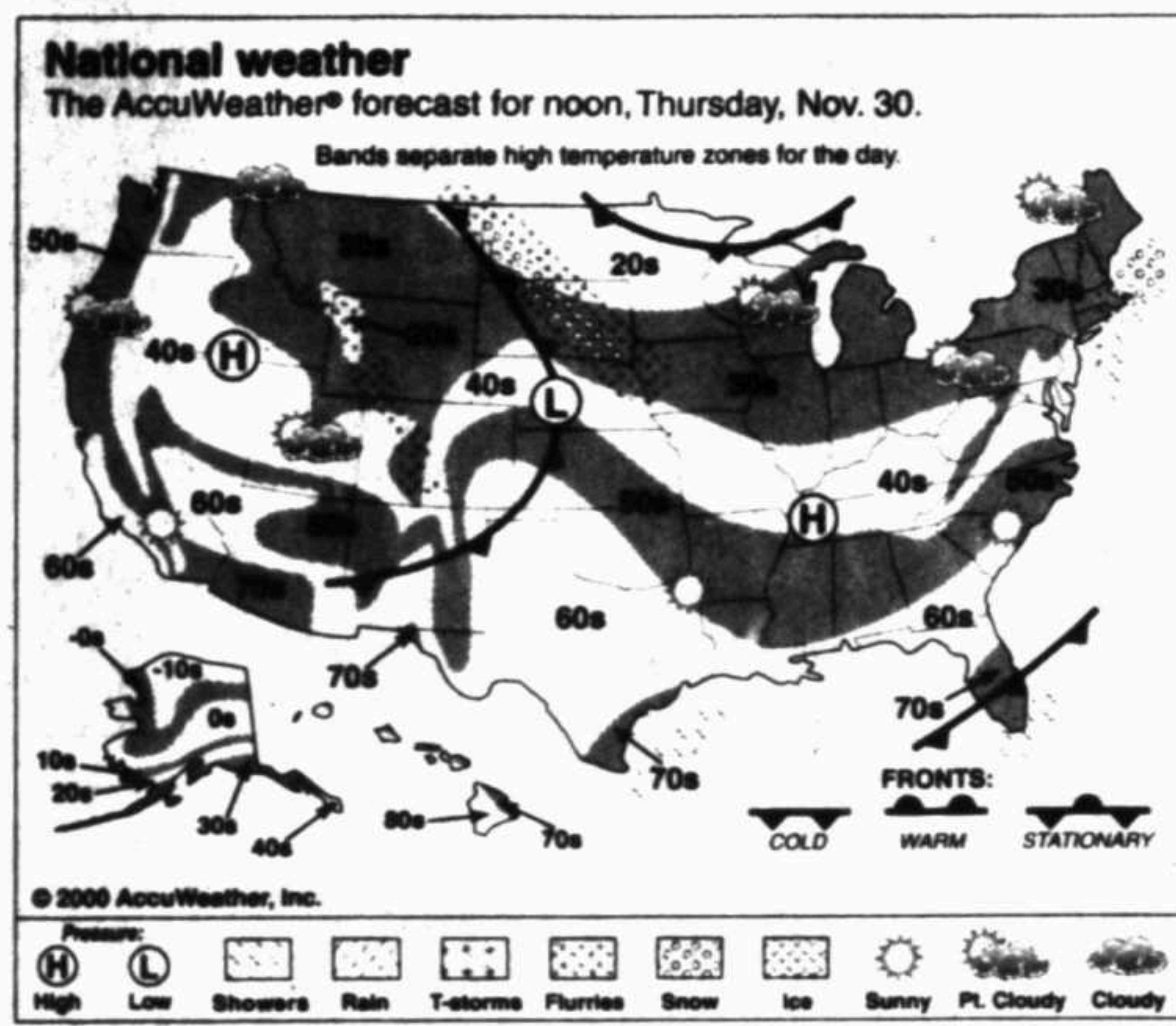
Friday's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies, lower temperatures, and a high of around 60. The low nighttime temperature is to be in the mid-30s.

After an overnight low of 35, Wednesday's high was 54, compared with the record high of 78 set in 1975. The record low was 15, set in 1976.

Yesterday's precipitation	Yesterday's temperatures
Rainfall Wednesday ... 0.00 in.	High ... 54
Rainfall Tuesday ... 0.00 in.	Low ... 35
Total for month ... 0.88 in.	Normal high ... 62
Total for year ... 9.32 in.	Normal low ... 34
Normal total (year to date) ... 14.38 in.	

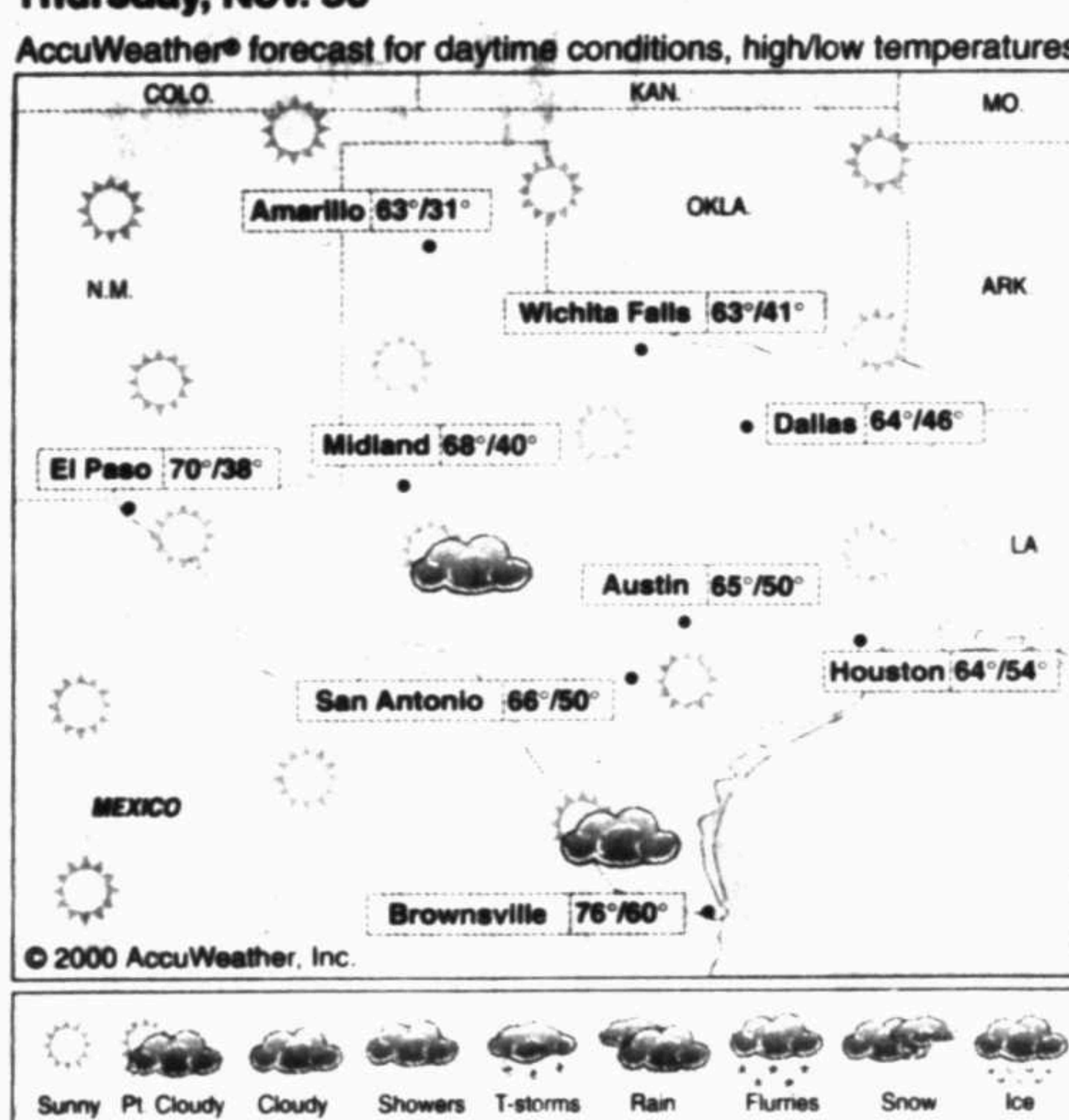
Sunrise ... 7:30 a.m.
Sunset ... 5:44 p.m.

National forecast



State forecast

Thursday, Nov. 30



Woman who fled to Cuba with her son is suspected of stealing from employer

MIAMI (AP) — A Florida woman who took her 5-year-old son to Cuba against his father's wishes left the United States amid suspicions she had embezzled as much as \$150,000 from her employer.

Arlenis Blanco, 29, is suspected of stealing from McKenzie Petroleum of Key Largo, where she had been an office manager, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday.

Ms. Blanco failed to show up for work on Nov. 13, said Jessica McKenzie, finance manager at the oil company. Ms. Blanco gave no notice, and Ms. McKenzie hasn't heard from her since.

The Cuban-born Blanco sailed to Cuba on a fishing boat on Nov. 12 with her son, Jonathon, her boyfriend and their infant daughter. Ms. Blanco has said she wants them to begin a new life on the island.

Her ex-husband, Jon Colombini, 31, a U.S.-born homebased restaurant manager who has joint custody of Jonathon, has gone to the State Department and the Cuban government for help in getting the boy back.

The case drew attention initially because of its apparent parallel to that of Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy who arrived in Florida in 1999 after surviving a boat wreck in which his mother and

her boyfriend were killed. After a long court battle, Elian was returned to Cuba to be with his father.

Ms. Blanco's mother has turned over to the police audiotapes in which her daughter tells of stealing a large sum of money and leaving Florida to save her family from embarrassment, said Becky Herrin, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

So far, Ms. Blanco has been charged only with interfering with shared custody for taking her son out of the country. The embezzlement investigation is continuing.

"I think that's why she left," Ms. McKenzie said. "She was going to get caught. She's afraid to go to jail."

Ms. McKenzie said her accountant has begun an audit but has not come to any conclusion yet.

Ms. Blanco wrote a check for \$5,300 at Cudjoe Key Fishing Equipment for lobster traps, said Mark Pfister, manager of the business. He said the check bounced.

Colombini and his lawyer met with the head of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington on Monday. The diplomat assured them the Cuban government would handle the matter expeditiously, said the attorney, Michael C. Berry.

ACT: Bush plans to meet with Powell today

(From 1A)

One million ballots were being hauled 400 miles from southern to northern Florida, where the precedent-making case has been thrust upon a folksy circuit judge in Tallahassee. "Pack 'em up and bring 'em up," Judge N. Sanders Sauls said.

Bush planned to meet today with retired Gen. Colin Powell, his still-to-be-announced choice as secretary of state. Powell has told associates that if offered the post he would accept. The Texas governor also was calling GOP congressional leaders, telephoned one conservative Mississippi Democrat himself and assigned his staff to call other Democratic lawmakers as Gore struggled to keep his party in line.

Following Bush's show of confidence, Gore played president-elect at a business meeting with running mate Joseph Lieberman, transition director Roy Neel, Labor Secretary Alex-Herman and Kathleen McGinty, former head of the White House environment office.

Ms. McGinty would be a front-runner to head the Environmental Protection Agency under Gore. Ms. Herman would be in line for other Cabinet post, White House counselor or perhaps chief of staff, a job that aides expect would first be offered to campaign manager William Daley.

Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush supporter, has declared him the winner of Florida by 537 votes

out of 6 million cast — handing Gore the steep challenge of nullifying a state's presidential election while convincing the public the race is not over.

And thus, the nation has two presidents-in-waiting posturing to be the 43rd man to assume the mantle.

"It's an amazing story, isn't it?" asked Gore, a former journalist joining legions of others grasping for the words to describe it.

He was dealt a setback Tuesday when Sauls refused to order immediate manual recounts of disputed ballots in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties. The judge scheduled a hearing Saturday on the vice president's petition to include manual recounts in official election totals — a move that Gore believes would help him overtake Bush.

Democratic lawyers want the votes recounted while the central case is being resolved by Sauls, both to save time and to show voters progress toward overtaking Bush.

Gore's political advisers said privately he needed a court victory in the next 48 hours to prevent a fatal erosion of the public's support. Thus, Gore was forced to appeal Sauls' decision, but his advisers debated for nearly 24 hours about how to do it, delaying the actual filing until today.

Some on his political and legal team wanted to ask the court to take over the entire case, throwing Gore's presidential aspirations at the feet of seven justices with Democratic ties. Others

thought that was too risky, and urged Gore to take the more cautious approach he eventually approved, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The debate itself reflected the growing level of concern in Gore's camp that time is running out.

A CBS-New York Times poll shows that a small majority of Americans say they have lost patience with the delay, but half say it is too soon for either candidate to concede. Forty-two percent of those surveyed said Gore should give it up.

In other action: ■ Palm Beach County released corrected totals showing that Gore picked up a net gain of 188 votes. Ms. Harris didn't accept the numbers because the county didn't complete its recount until two hours after the deadline.

■ A Florida judge rejected a conservative law group's bid to keep examining Palm Beach County's presidential ballots, including 3,300 being sought by Gore's legal team.

The Florida court wrangling played out against the anticipation of Friday's hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court took the case after Bush appealed a Florida Supreme Court decision extending a since-expired deadline for hand recounts.

GOP presidential candidate Dick Cheney opened Bush's transition headquarters in suburban Washington and announced its first staff at a news conference.

In the quiet of his Texas ranch, Bush prepared for his meeting with Powell to talk "about how you might put together your national security team for a Bush administration," Cheney said, adding that no Cabinet selections would be announced this week. Bush also was reaching out to Republican lawmakers who narrowly control Congress.

Members of Bush's high command were contacting lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike, to discuss Bush's agenda and to tout what they say is his bipartisan approach to governing, senior Bush advisers involved in the talks said Wednesday. Bush himself on Tuesday called Rep. Gene Taylor, a conservative Democrat from Mississippi who has pledged to vote for Bush should the election be tossed to the House.

The officials said Bush's team does not initiate conversations about the election standoff but most of the lawmakers, including many Democrats, ask about Gore's contest. Bush aides reply with their arguments for why Gore's protest must fail, one official said, denying that Republicans are actively trying to persuade Democrats to abandon Gore.

Some conservative Democrats were worried about Gore's political strength. "I've told his team he ought to be doing a better job on the PR side, let the press know what his options are legally and ask the country to be patient," said Rep. Allen Boyd, D-Fla.

80-foot Christmas tree lighted at Rockefeller Center.

■ 30,000 lights adorn Norway spruce.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A cheering crowd of thousands packed Rockefeller Center on Wednesday night to join singer Marc Anthony and skater Tara Lipinski for the 68th lighting of one of the country's most famous Christmas trees.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani led

the final countdown in a light rain before the 80-foot tree's 30,000 lights were switched on to a burst of cheers.

"It puts me in the holiday spirit," said Mary Andreasen, 22, of New York, after posing with friends for a quick picture with the tree in the background.

People began arriving eight hours before the lighting, filling in the space behind barriers erected by police for crowd control. Some brought coffee or hot chocolate, while others hopped up

and down to keep warm in the cool night air.

Nani Yamai, 22, said she'd heard about the festivities before moving to New York from Japan. The cold weather was a little uncomfortable, she said, but she was more annoyed at not being able to get closer to the performers.

Much of the crowd couldn't see the two stages where singers Anthony, 98 Degrees, Natalie Cole, Destiny's Child and actress Wendie Malick performed. They

also couldn't see Ms. Lipinski, the Olympic gold medalist, twirl on the plaza's sunken ice rink.

The show was broadcast nationally by NBC and also shown on giant projection screens for the Rockefeller Center crowd in midtown Manhattan, but even the screens couldn't accommodate the entire crowd.

The 7,500-pound Norway spruce was donated by Bill and Frances Heady of Buchanan, N.Y., who said it was planted in 1950 when their house was built.

MISD: Parents want students to participate, Cooper says

(From 1A)

"If they jumped through enough hoops they got to march," Cooper said. "But they did not receive a diploma. They received a certificate of participation."

Cooper said that many parents would like the students to be able to participate in the graduation ceremony regardless. He also mentioned that often it is rare that students who meet all of their graduation requirements fail the TAAS.

"It's difficult for me to understand why a student could pass all of the requirements for education but not pass the TAAS," Cooper said.

There are some students that are bad test-takers and I have a great deal of empathy for them but at the same time that is what is required and we do what is required."

Strauss agreed with Cooper along the line that if students did complete the 22 course hours needed for graduation but failed the TAAS it pointed to a greater problem. He also thought that Fuller's approach was "one last slash on the backside" because they didn't perform as they should have. Strauss said that the board was being "punitive" in this issue. Fellow board member Charles Tighe also said he saw both sides — one seeing it as

wrong because it was punitive and the other thinking it is needed as an incentive.

Fuller took some offense to the idea that by not allowing them to participate in the ceremony was punishing the students in some kind of way.

"We aren't punishing anybody," Fuller said. "Too many students have made these particular choices to not performing or achieving at a certain level, by turning in no work and being moved along. The point comes down to are we going to be honest about what's taking place in our educational system?"

Because the board was still debating the issue, Ms. Oekerman

decided to move that the vote be held over until the next session. That measure was passed 3-2 with one abstention.

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SMITH: Goal of commissioner-elect is to work on, modify county's payroll structure

(From 1A)

ed the jail-expansion proposals and "doing whatever is going to be the best for Midland County" and for the community's safety.

"I want to work on the county payroll structure and modify that to where it is workable," Smith said of the salary step-and-grade schedule for the county's 400-plus hired employees.

Of the county's fiscal year 2001 general fund budget of \$23 million, about 70 percent, or \$16 million, goes for salary and payroll burden for about 440 workers, including the county's 26 elected officials.

Smith cited his "knowledge and understanding of law-enforcement issues" and his "awareness of the needs" in law-enforcement. "Smith also noted that he 'can offer some expertise' in economic development should the Commissioners' Court 'get involved' with the Midland City Council in that area."

Another issue facing county

government, he said, is the redistricting of the county's four commissioner precincts based on the 2000 United States Census.

Smith that he and Mrs. Ramirez will "add some expertise to the court."

"I don't think we will let personalities get in the way of what is best for the county," Smith said. "I'm really excited about it. We are going to have a full year coming up on the court, he said, and noted that county government will serve the community well "as long as we do it (the court's business) methodically and do it to the benefit" of the employees and the community.

PARTY: Florida vote battle would legitimize Bush presidency, Democrat Higgins says

(From 1A)

McNamara urged the Bush supporters to be forceful about their positions "by calling Democratic leaders and congressmen to let them know where we stand."

She added, "Everyone should express their outrage at Gore for not conceding."

But Michael Higgins, chairman of the Midland County Democratic Party, believes Bush's move toward forming a transition team is both arrogant and presumptuous and that the Clinton administration's decision to delay the official transition is the correct move.

If a doubt exists in regards to the voting in Florida, then Gore's fight is valid and a true voter count should be obtained, Higgins said.

"Any candidate for any office would take a similar strategy,"

Higgins said. "If Bush is the victor, he'll be thankful Gore pursued this course" because it will legitimize his presidency.

Both sides have been tenacious in their struggle for the White House.

Ms. McNamara, who assumed her position in August, said she had hoped the election would be finalized by the time she attended Wednesday Young Republicans luncheon.

She has been a Republican activist and volunteer for many years. She has a business background and has a recurring role

as a court reporter on the TV series, "Walker, Texas Ranger."

Her "claim to fame" as she puts it, was serving as the court reporter for the deposition of President Clinton in the Paula Jones case.

As for the ongoing legal battle over the Florida vote, Ms. McNamara said, "This is the legacy of the Clinton/Gore administration. They will do anything and say anything — even though it will harm the country — for their own preservation and power."

Pick 3 Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The Pick 3 winning numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-5-2

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The Lotto Texas winning numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-9-26-35-45-46

Big

By Marcia Du
Associated Pre

CAPE CANA

The biggest, most expensive set ever built for a to take flight.

Late Thursday shuttle Endeavour with the \$600 million, which needed electronic international sp

The pair of colorful panels feet from tip to across, and once they are newly occupied Alpha. That's wingspan of longer than even

Ailing u

PITTSBURG

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Charles Porter information about Joseph Rosa, a vania organized a key witness ag 1990 trial, FE

Greenbank said testifying at a he by federal auth Porter's sentenc

"This shows th ing to grips with Greenbank said.

The agent, for burgh and now Del., said Porter er federal priso details about the and routines of m were cooperating.

Biggest, most powerful solar wings about to take flight

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The biggest, most powerful, most expensive set of solar wings ever built for a spacecraft is about to take flight.

Late Thursday night, space shuttle Endeavour is due to lift off with the \$600 million solar panels, which will provide much-needed electrical power for the international space station.

The pair of glimmering, gold-colored panels will stretch 240 feet from tip to tip and 38 feet across, and cover half an acre, once they are unfurled on the newly occupied space station, Alpha. That's longer than the wingspan of a Boeing 777, longer than even the space station

itself.

Attaching and spreading the wings, which are folded like an accordion for launch, make this NASA's toughest construction mission yet. The job falls to five shuttle astronauts who have been training for this flight for more than three years. Two of them will go outside to help install the panels.

The five shuttle crewmen — plus the three men who have been living on Alpha for the past month — expect the unfolding wings to be a breathtaking sight. It will be the largest structure ever deployed in space and will make the station one of the brightest "stars" in the sky.

"I think there's going to be a very sudden shift in people's perception of the international space

station, because suddenly it's going to look much, much bigger than it already is," said Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau.

The space station cannot grow without the extra electrical power that the new solar panels will provide. NASA's power-hungry lab module is to be launched in January.

Also, station commander Bill Shepherd and his Russian crew cannot have full run of the place until the new solar wings begin generating electricity. Alpha's skimpy, Russian-built solar panels do not provide enough power to heat the roomy Unity module, which is sealed off, or to run all the station equipment at full blast.

The American-made solar wings — the first of four sets to

be launched to the space station — can produce 65 kilowatts at peak power, enough to power about 30 homes on Earth. That is four times the amount of electricity currently generated aboard the station.

The mission is not without danger.

No one really knows how much static electricity will be discharged as the space station zooms around Earth. NASA worries a spacewalking astronaut could be shocked and possibly killed by an electrical arc.

NASA has installed devices on Alpha to neutralize static electricity. If necessary, flight controllers could further reduce the risk by turning the solar panels so they do not face into the direction of travel, but that eats into power.

Three spacewalks are planned during the 11-day mission.

Altogether, the new solar wings and their batteries, radiators and extension beams weigh 35,000 pounds, one of the heaviest shuttle payloads ever. Each wing alone weighs 2,400 pounds and is made of 32,800, 3-inch-square silicone cells and thin Kapton layers.

NASA had to trim as much

weight as possible for Endeavour to carry such a massive payload. Among other things, the crew size was limited to five rather than the usual seven.

Engineers even considered removing the shuttle toilet and packing extra plastic bags for the astronauts to relieve themselves. Astronaut Joe Tanner said it was a drastic measure that, thankfully, was discarded.

Ailing underboss asks for mercy

PITTSBURGH (AP) — An organized crime leader who is serving 28 years in prison for racketeering saved the lives of six people targeted for killings and deserves to get out early, an FBI agent testified Wednesday.

Charles Porter, 67, gave the FBI information about a pending hit on Joseph Rosa, a western Pennsylvania organized crime figure and a key witness against Porter at his 1990 trial, FBI Agent Roger Greenbank said. Greenbank was testifying at a hearing on a request by federal authorities to reduce Porter's sentence.

"This shows that there is a coming to grips with his conviction," Greenbank said.

The agent, formerly of Pittsburgh and now of Wilmington, Del., said Porter obtained from other federal prison inmates many details about the addresses, habits and routines of mob witnesses who were cooperating with authorities. Porter, formerly of Penn Hills, was one of two top aides to a reputed Pittsburgh mob boss, federal authorities said. He was convicted of racketeering in 1990, sentenced to 28 years in prison and began cooperating with the FBI two years later.

Porter was accused of drug dealing, extortion, robbery, gambling and conspiracy to commit murder. Eight other defendants were also convicted after a two-month trial that broke up an organization that had been operating for 70 years.

Porter obtained advance word of mob assassinations while at federal prisons in New York, Texas, Maryland and Pennsylvania. His son, attorney Charles J. Porter, told federal prosecutors that his father has diabetes, kidney failure, failing eyesight and colon polyps.

The tips started coming in 1992 and all of the targets were part of the Justice Department's Witness Security Program.

Greenbank said another target, whom he did not identify, was helping authorities with an inves-

tigation of the skimming of profits at Las Vegas casinos.

Porter helped with organized crime investigations in Boston; New York; Newark, N.J.; Philadelphia; Youngstown, Ohio; Detroit; Cleveland and Miami.

Porter's defense attorney asked Greenbank if Porter would be in danger if he remained in jail and Greenbank said he would.

Former FBI agent Robert Garrity said he was impressed with Porter's concern for his relatives while in jail and that "his reluctance to cooperate at first had a lot to do with concern about harm coming to his family."

Garrity, now an investigator in the Pennsylvania court system, was the agent who led the investigation that brought Porter to trial ten years ago.

Garrity said he found Porter to be charming during a recent jail visit.

"He said, 'We're not as organized as you think we are,'" Garrity said. "I said, 'We're not as smart as you think we are.'"

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Dr. Sylvan Bartlett, Board Certified Plastic Surgeon with more than 30 years experience in performing cosmetic surgery will conduct a comprehensive group presentation on Wednesday, December 6th. Dr. Bartlett will cover the procedures participants of the class are interested in learning more about.

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A Free Consultation Certificate valued at \$65.00 will be given to all participants.

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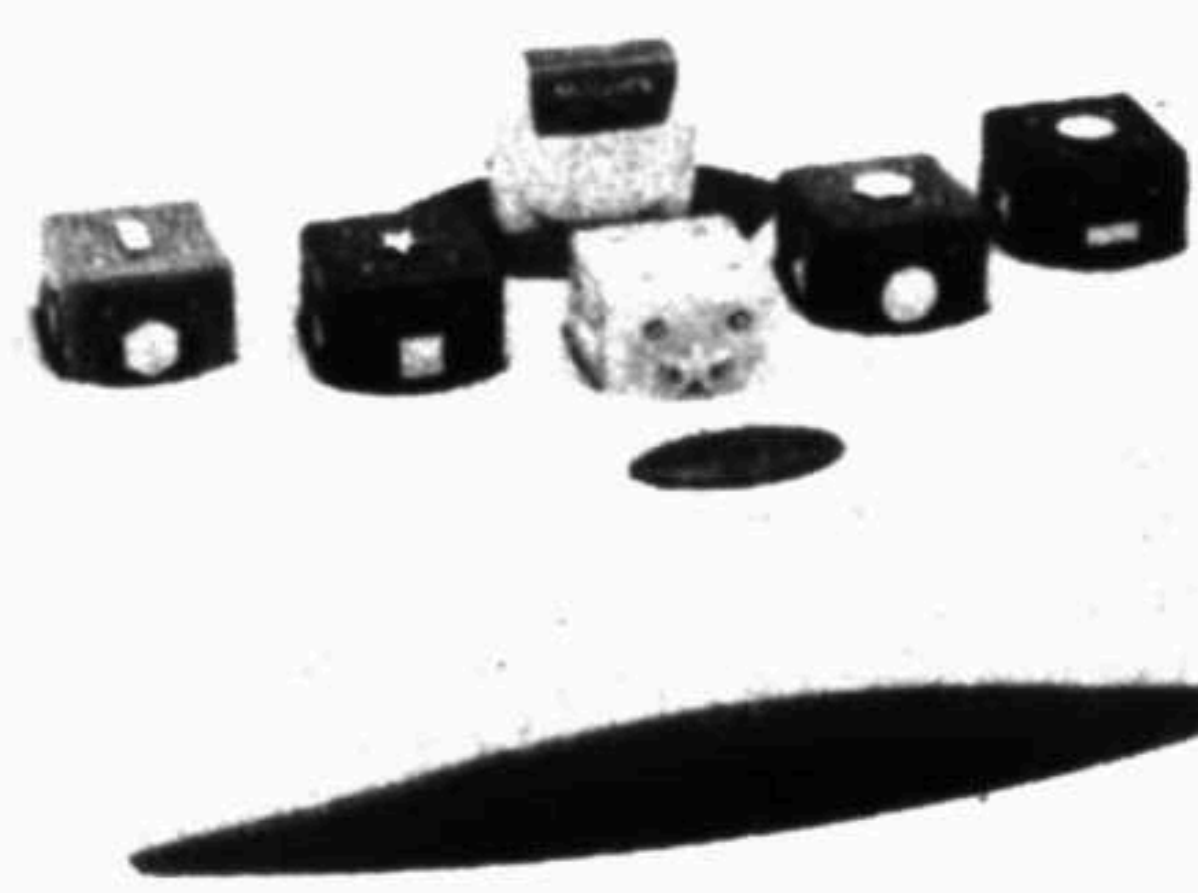
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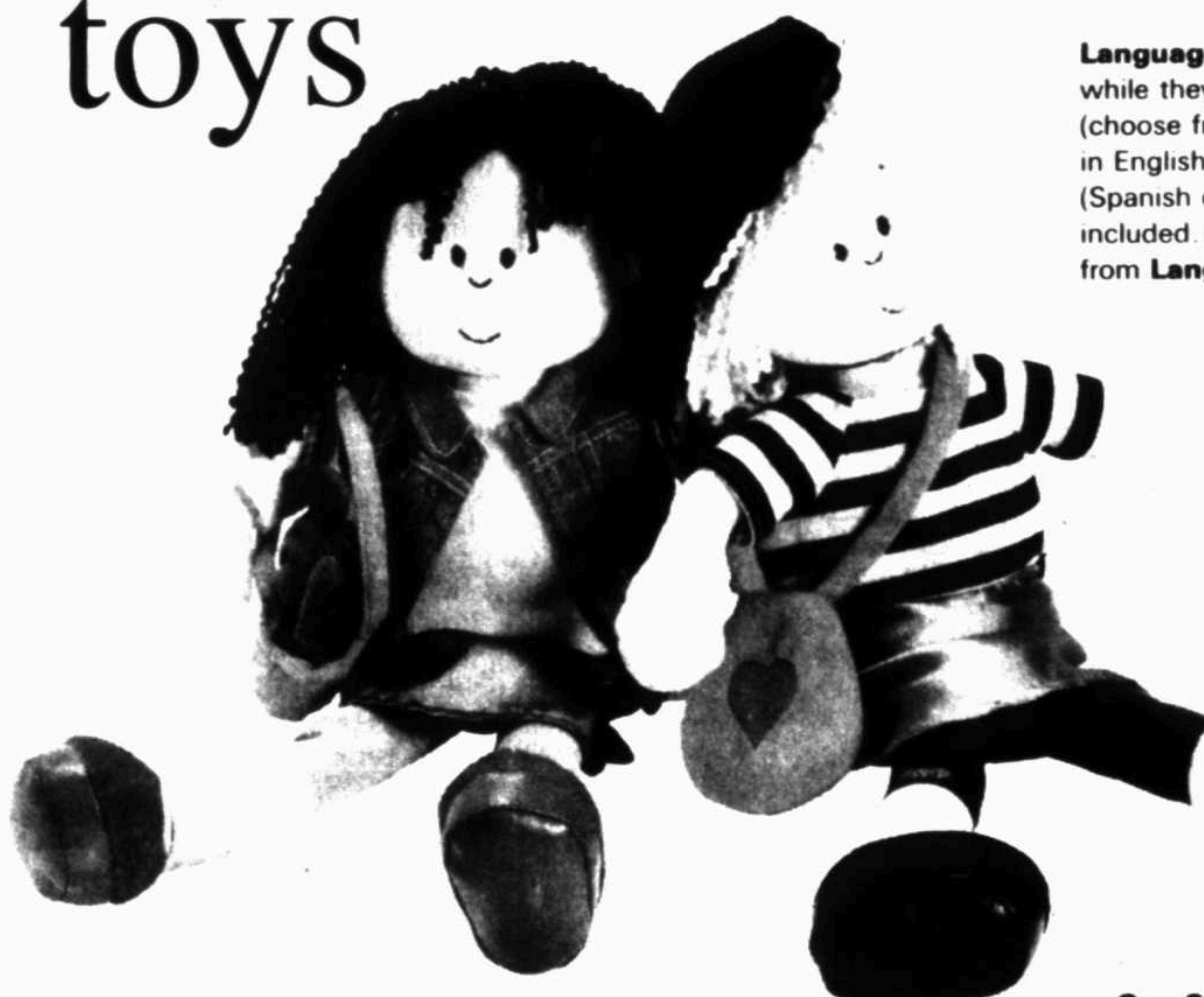
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America ought to see through Gore's latest incarnation

Make way for the latest incarnation of Al Gore.

This time he is trying to portray himself as the Savior of Democracy, the Crusader out to protect the voter.

Al Gore can't control his craving for the television camera. He tried desperately to upstage "Monday Night Football." He has trotted himself out to plead his case with his favorite television journalists, most notably NBC's Claire Shipman who sensitively listened to Gore's heroic posturing as she interviewed the vice president one-on-one earlier this week. In that same interview, Gore announced his determination to drag this battle out into mid-December.

Over and over, Al Gore proclaims that he is doing this on behalf of democracy, the balloting process and the individual voter.

Regardless of how many times he steps to the microphone and repeats that mantra, his speeches remain shameless and transparent. The question becomes, how much more is the American public willing to take?

Polls are already indicating that the public believes Al Gore is going too far and that he appears to be manipulating the legal system for the sole purpose of keeping alive his presidential aspirations.

This has put the certified Florida winner, George W. Bush, in an incredibly awkward position. Yet Bush and members of his team continue to carry themselves with dignity and professionalism.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday will hear arguments in the Bush-Gore ballot dispute. We have faith that the men and women who serve on the highest court in our land will listen to both sides and ultimately render an appropriate decision.

The only handicap Bush could face is that unlike Al Gore, who has poured all his time into public relations and acquiring top legal professionals who manage the minute machinations of his political life support system, Bush has tried to stay focused on what lies ahead. He's putting together his White House team and looking down the road toward uniting the nation.

Bush is and has been a man comfortable in his own skin.

Gore will crawl into any skin, appear to be anything to fulfill his passion to succeed Bill Clinton.

If the U.S. Supreme Court rules against him, who will Al Gore become next? The Wronged Man?

If George W. Bush ultimately moves into the White House, will we hear the whining of Al Gore the Legitimate President for four years?

Al Gore's image consultants would be doing their boss a favor if they advised him to hang up the Sore Loser costume, because those Americans capable of seeing through Al Gore know that is exactly who it is we're seeing on television these days.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Nov. 30, the 335th day of 2000. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On Nov. 30, 1900, Irish writer Oscar Wilde died in Paris at age 46.

On this date:

In 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

In 1804, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase went on trial, accused of political bias. (He was acquitted by the Senate.)

In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Mo.

In 1874, British statesman Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

In 1936, London's Crystal Palace, constructed for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.

In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.

In 1949, Chinese Communists captured Chungking.

In 1962, U Thant of Burma was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjöld.

In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Brady gun control bill.

Ten years ago: President Bush announced that Secretary of State James Baker III would go to Iraq in a last-ditch diplomatic peace effort. President Bush named outgoing Florida Gov. Bob Martinez to head the nation's war on drugs. Author Norman Cousins died in Los Angeles at age 75.

Five years ago: President Clinton became the first U.S. chief executive to visit Northern Ireland, where he implored Roman Catholics and Protestants alike not to surrender to the impulses of "old habits and hard grudges."

One year ago: The opening of a 135-nation trade gathering in Seattle was disrupted by at least 40,000 demonstrators, some of whom claimed with police.

JACK ANDERSON AND DOUGLAS COHN

Candidates may face claims of illegitimacy

WASHINGTON — Both Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush desperately want the presidency, but it will be a hollow office attained if the attaining lacks legitimacy, for there are several roads to illegitimacy.

The believed truth by Republicans and Democrats alike is that more people voted for Gore than Bush in Florida, hence each candidate is acting accordingly. Gore presses for a full vote count. Bush presses for closure. Each must tread adroitly.

Just as Florida's law fixing a date for vote certification does not provide sufficient time for large counties to conduct recounts (also provided for by law), the U.S. Constitution does not provide sufficient time — just over a month between the time the public votes for presidential electors and when those electors cast their

votes for president and vice president — to contest an election. The Florida Supreme Court attempted to reconcile the state's conflicting laws by extending the deadline and satisfying no one. The Bush team cried foul, claiming the deadline is the deadline. The Gore team went constitutional, claiming that the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of the right to vote trumps an artificial deadline.

So the question is whether the clock is more important than the vote. This can be addressed and even remedied for the future, but it is a dilemma for the present.

The clock is running out, and the Bush team is running out the clock. It is a legal strategy, and perhaps their only path to victory. The Gore team is desperately trying to force a count of disputed votes and votes rejected by machines that have not yet been counted by hand, also a legal strategy, but not their only path to victory. Voters have taken matters into their own hands, and a suit has been filed by one of them to void what are claimed to be illegal ballots.

And it is the voters, not the candidates, that matter. They are on the side of the angels. The clock

is not, and come December 12, that clock will have run out, for that is the date by which Florida's presidential electors must be chosen.

Yet this is not a football game where running out the clock prevents the other side from scoring. Running out the clock in an election prevents the other side from counting votes already cast — or, to continue the analogy, points already scored. It is legal, but is it legitimate or simply the legalized suppression of votes?

So Bush faces a dilemma. He may win only to eventually be dogged by the fact that had all the legal votes been counted, he would have lost. But we live in an age of clichés extolling victory: "Winning is the only thing." "Nice guys finish last." "Americans will not tolerate a loser." But there is something to be said for the underdog, for the citizens on the side of the angels:

"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never — in nothing, great or small, large or petty — never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." — Winston Churchill.

Jack Anderson's and Douglas Cohn's column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate.



Anderson



GEORGE WILL

Gore not interested in 'will of the people'

President, n. The leading figure in a small group of men of whom — and of whom only it is positively known that immense numbers of their countrymen did not want any of them for President.

— Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

WASHINGTON — As George W. Bush is inaugurated Jan. 20, the law firm of Boies, Gore & Lieberman may be clustered in front of the platform, waving legal briefs purporting to demonstrate illegal imperfections in the way the "will of the people" was measured in Florida, where both the winner and the loser received the support of 27 percent of "the people" of Florida, understood as that state's eligible voters. But despite the supposed sophistication of Boies, Gore & Lieberman, all its arguments have rested on two braided assertions, each too weak to gain significant strength from the braiding:

First, anything done with a ballot constitutes a cast vote. Second, no vote can be considered counted until a presidential intent has been ascribed to it, even if the ascription involves intuiting the meaning of "marks ... barely discernible to the human eye" (the words of Judge Charles Burton, who presided over Palm Beach County's recount).

Beneath such result-oriented lawyers' artistry lurks a pernicious premise. It is that casting a ballot is a task so challenging for many voters that the task cannot be completed without the intervention of lawyers-as-intuitors. This soft bigotry of low expectations infused Al Gore's eerie speech Monday evening.

He said: "If the people do not in the end choose me, so be it." Note the tense: He assumes the election — the campaign, even — is still going on. He assumes "the people" are not done choosing. Well, of course, how could they be — assuming that "the people" will not be done choosing until the priesthood of intuitors is done intuiting.

Which is why finality, as provided by Florida's law before that state's Supreme Court shredded it, matters: The best vote count, in terms of actual and perceived integrity, is almost always the one done on election night. Given Gore's reiteration on Tuesday of his request for yet another count of all of Florida's votes, this time manually, and his request for yet another extension of the counting deadline, con-

sider what Jonathan Rauch of the Brookings Institution writes in the current *New Republic*.

In any election, the first counting of ballots is, he says, the only count that is "double-blind." Voters and vote counters can only guess at the effects of their decisions on the election's outcome. After the initial count, each side knows exactly how many additional votes it would take to tilt the election for or against its candidate. "This knowledge," Rauch writes, "inevitably raises questions about every decision made regarding the subsequent recount efforts." The problem is compounded, Rauch notes, when the recount is manual.

"When partisan election officials know for a fact that a few votes could change the outcome, they can't help but be tempted to tilt their recounts accordingly. And, even if they resist the temptation, who will believe them? The counters simply know too much about the votes' importance to seem above suspicion."

Now, given all this, consider how slippery is the language of Boies, Gore & Lieberman when speaking of Florida "votes" that voting machines "failed to count." Actually, of course, when a machine rejects a ballot, the machine has not "failed" at anything, least of all at counting a validly cast vote. Rather, the machine has succeeded in identifying either a ballot cast by a voter who exercised the right not to vote for either presidential candidate, or a ballot carelessly mishandled by someone who did not bring to the task of voting the minimal diligence that is reasonably expected on an occasion of such gravity.

Gore's hopes for the presidency hang by several very thin threads, one of which is his attempt to get a court to direct Palm Beach County to intuitively interpret as votes thousands of ballots with dimples and even lesser marks "barely discernible to the human eye." But Bush's petition to the U.S. Supreme Court stresses that in Palm Beach County the following notice, printed in bold type, was prominently affixed to every voting station at which voters executed their ballots:

AFTER VOTING, CHECK YOUR BALLOT CARD TO BE SURE YOUR VOTING SELECTIONS ARE CLEARLY AND CLEANLY PUNCHED AND THERE ARE NO CHIPS LEFT HANGING ON THE BACK OF THE CARD.

Think of this notice when next the firm of Boies, Gore & Lieberman waxes sorrowful about Florida's impediments to measuring "the will of the people."

George Will's column is distributed by Washington Post Writers Group.



Will

Doonesbury



ART BUCHWALD

Canadians still waiting for bitter American losers

Not only the U.S., but Canada too has a great deal at stake in the presidential election. This information was given to me by Diggle Higginbottom, of Windsor, who was on an urgent mission to Washington.

"Canada is very worried about your election," he said. "It is not only a question of our sale of pharmaceuticals to your senior citizens and free trade of our Canadian hockey players, but next to Florida, no one has more interest in the outcome than we do."

"Why the interest?" "Every four years Canadians hear the same story. 'If my candidate loses, I'm going to move to Canada.' Our Canadian people get all excited. They build houses, factories, schools and hospitals and add thousands of McDonald's in anticipation. The roads are paved and we construct ski lifts all over the country. But after we do all this, no one comes."

"I've been sent here to see that whether the Gore people or the Bush people lose the election they will keep their promises of moving to Canada."

"It seems to me I wrote about this when George Bush's father lost the election to Bill Clinton."

"Exactly. We were expecting millions of bitter Republicans to move but no one showed up. It almost broke the Canadian treasury."

"Why do you expect the American losers to act differently this time?"

"It is a much tougher race. The future of Montreal is in the hands of the Supreme Court judging what is going on in Palm Beach County. This is the first time Canada is worried about what the Supremes are going to do."

"Will their decision hold up in Toronto?"

"I should hope it will. We are submitting a brief showing how much work we put into making Americans welcome."

"But if it didn't work four years ago why should it work now?"

"This is the most bitter election the U.S. has had. This time we're certain losers are not going to stay in the country. If you were a Gore voter and Bush won, would you stay here? And if you were for Bush, could you live under Gore? I'm going to go on all the talk shows and ask the people not to say they are coming our way unless they mean it."

"Canada's message is, 'If you ever had dimpled chad, we have a place for you.'"

"It's good of you to accommodate so many losers."

"That's what friends are for."

Art Buchwald's column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

WHOM TO WRITE

Following is a list of the names and addresses of various state and federal officials Midlanders may wish to contact from time-to-time:

GOVERNOR: George W. Bush (R), State Capitol Building, Austin, Texas 78701 or call (512) 463-2000, Fax (512) 463-1849.

STATE SENATOR: Teel Blivins (R), District 31, P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711 or call (512) 463-0131, Fax (512) 475-3733; or P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, Texas 79105 or call (806) 374-9933, Fax (806) 374-4607; or P.O. Box 1673, Midland, Texas 79702, 682-0455, Fax (915) 684-7843.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Craddick (R), District 82, 508 W. Wall St., Suite 750, Midland, Texas 79701 or call 682-3000, Fax 684-4804.

Report

By David Pa
 Associated Pr

WASHINGTON — shaken by se Energy Depa acknowledging classified docu three nuclear w ries last year w approved to re al.

Department errant mailing new report from inspector gene promise secur problem has be But that asse langed Wednes Intelligence C man.

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The report sa unauthorized ac covered in May computer di nuclear secrets the Los Alamo ratory in New M reappeared thr behind a copyin lab.

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FAA: US was right pig to fly

PHILADELPHIA — Airways acted re allowed a pig to Philadelphia to S Aviation Admin

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"US Airways acted in a reason ful manner, base request to trans individual with a service anima spokesman Jim

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Ms. Andrew lotie behaved b hour flight.

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Report: Secret documents mailed to unauthorized addresses

By David Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Already shaken by security lapses, the Energy Department is now acknowledging that 15 percent of classified documents mailed from three nuclear weapons laboratories last year went to addresses not approved to receive such material.

Department officials insist the errant mailings, disclosed in a new report from the agency's inspector general, did not compromise security and that the problem has been fixed.

But that assessment was challenged Wednesday by the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman.

"They don't know that," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala. "You can rationalize, justify just about anything, but at the end of the day, you don't know what might have been lost. You have to fear the worst in a situation like that."

The Energy Department keeps a computer database of addresses that are eligible to receive classified data. Anyone mailing classified data is supposed to check this list to ensure the address is approved.

The report said the mailings to unauthorized addresses were discovered in May, shortly after two computer disks containing nuclear secrets disappeared from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The disks reappeared three months later behind a copying machine at the lab.

Department security officials alerted by the agency's inspector general acknowledged that the mailings violated department policy but concluded that no classi-

fied information was compromised. They blamed contractors who did not have access to the list of approved addresses.

But Inspector General Gregory H. Friedman disagreed. In his report to Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, he blamed a "breakdown in the execution of internal controls designed to prevent transmittal of classified documents to inappropriate recipients."

Richardson did not respond to a request for comment on the report.

But Floyd Thomas of the National Nuclear Security Administration, created by Congress last year to oversee the labs, called the report helpful and said the agency supports Deputy Energy Secretary T.J. Glautier's plan to crack down on contractors who mishandle classified materials.

In a Nov. 14 memo to Friedman, Glautier said the department is developing new rules under which contractors could lose some contract payments and be fined up to \$100,000 if they fail to protect classified information. He said the new rules will be announced by May 31.

The investigation examined 177 mailings of classified documents last year from the Los Alamos Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif., and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash.

Investigators found that 27 of the mailings, or about 15 percent of those reviewed, were sent to other federal agencies or federal contractors that were not in the database of approved addresses.

Shelby has been an outspoken critic of security lapses at Energy Department labs. Last year,

Los Alamos fired scientist Wen Ho Lee, who was later indicted on 59 federal felonies for improperly transferring nuclear secrets to portable computer tapes.

Lee pleaded guilty to one count in September and was set free after he agreed to cooperate with investigators searching for missing computer tapes with nuclear weapons data. FBI agents searched for the tapes this week in a landfill near the Los Alamos lab.

The case against Lee stemmed from an investigation of possible

Chinese espionage at Los Alamos, but the Taiwan-born Lee denied spying and was never charged with espionage. While Lee was imprisoned, the two computer disks disappeared and then reappeared at the lab.

An FBI investigation into those computer disks is continuing. The University of California, which manages the Los Alamos lab, announced earlier this month it has disciplined workers because of the missing disks, but the number of workers and the nature of the discipline was not disclosed.

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FAA: US Airways was right to allow pig to fly first class

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — US Airways acted reasonably when it allowed a pig to fly first class from Philadelphia to Seattle, the Federal Aviation Administration found.

Maria Tirota Andrews brought Charlotte, her 300-pound Vietnamese potbellied pig, on the flight Oct. 17, telling the airline it was a "therapeutic companion pet." Ms. Andrews said her heart condition was so severe she needed the pig to relieve stress.

"US Airways and its personnel acted in a reasonable and thoughtful manner, based on a legitimate request to transport a qualified individual with a disability and her service animal," said FAA spokesman Jim Peters.

Under federal rules, airlines must permit a service animal to accompany passengers to their seats.

The airline, embarrassed, filed an incident report with the FAA based on passenger complaints that the pig became unruly when the plane landed. The animal tried to enter the cockpit and refused to leave the galley until a passenger tossed food at her, according to the report.

FAA officials interviewed US Airways personnel and passengers after reading an account of the incident in the Philadelphia Daily News and decided Nov. 18 that the airline did nothing wrong, Peters said Wednesday.

Ms. Andrews denies that Charlotte behaved badly during the six-hour flight.

"My pig did not run around the plane's aisles. My pig did not run around anywhere," Ms. Andrews said.

She told the airline ahead of time that she would have the pig on the plane, but said it only weighed 13 pounds.

The airline allowed the pig into first class for free.

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Trial of Cole suspect could put Yemeni justice on trial

By Donna Bryson
Associated Press

SAN'A, Yemen — Suspects in the bombing of the USS Cole likely will not go on trial for four weeks, and when they do, attention will focus on Yemen's justice system — a system branded anything but just.

The State Department, in its most recent review of Yemeni justice, described security forces torturing suspects to extract confessions, defendants denied lawyers, and judges swayed by bribes or government pressure.

"The two main issues are lack of training and lack of independence," Jamal Adimi, a Yemeni lawyer who seeks to reform the legal system, said Wednesday. "We have good laws, but they are not implemented because the judges are not strong enough."

The Yemeni government has acknowledged the problems. Reforms announced in 1997 included publishing a judicial code of ethics. Last year, the government dismissed several judges accused of corruption or incompetence, and it has accepted World Bank help in training judges.

But observers say the reforms have not yet had time to produce results. The evidence must not only be admissible in a Yemeni court but also must hold up in U.S. proceedings, a U.S. official in San'a said.

Such concerns are part of the reason U.S. investigators want to at least be present at the interrogations of suspects in the deadly attack on the Cole. The Yemeni government has yet to grant the United States such access, though U.S. investigators have been given transcripts of interrogations and allowed to take physical evidence for analysis.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States and Yemen agreed Wednesday on how the inquiry would be carried out. He gave no details, except to say the accord calls for cooperation between U.S. and Yemeni investigators. It was signed in Aden by U.S. Ambassador Barbara Bodine and a Yemeni official, Boucher said.

The attack on the Cole occurred Oct. 12, when two suicide bombers steered a small boat laden with explosives alongside the U.S. warship and detonated it in Aden harbor at Yemen's southern tip. Seventeen U.S. sailors were killed and 39 others injured.

A Yemeni source close to the investigation said this week that Yemeni police had concluded their inquiry and would recommend prosecutors bring charges against at least two suspects on charges of carrying out the attack, threatening state security, forming an armed gang and possessing explosives.

It was not clear when charges, some of which carry the death penalty, would be filed. The U.S. official in Yemen — who spoke on condition of anonymity — said a trial was not expected before Ramadan ends in late December.

If information gleaned from proceedings in Yemen were someday to be used in a U.S. prosecution, "you have to have integrity in the chain of evidence — that means the evidence has to be gathered by U.S. law enforcement."

Six U.N. officers fired in Bosnia

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Six U.N. police officers were removed from the Bosnian mission and sent home because of "inappropriate behavior" after a raid on three bars, the U.N. said Wednesday.

Local police, assisted by U.N. officers, raided the nightclubs in the Bosnian Serb town of Prijedor on Nov. 13 and found 33 women apparently forced into prostitution — some believed to be as young as 14.

The owner of the clubs, Milorad Milakovic, accused the U.N. police in Prijedor of asking for protection money to avoid police action against him.

Prostitution is illegal in Bosnia, and the U.N. police are deployed in Bosnia to make sure the local police do their job and uphold the rule of law.

Alun Roberts, the U.N. spokesman in Banja Luka, told reporters on Wednesday the officers had been sent home.

"The six were removed for exceeding their duties in the U.N. mandate and also for inappropriate behavior and violation of the U.N. mission code of conduct," Roberts said.

Soon after the raids, Milakovic reopened one of his clubs.

Women mainly from countries like Ukraine, Moldova or Romania often use illegal channels to get to Bosnia and decide to stay and work as prostitutes.

Other women, who are told they will get jobs as waitresses in Western Europe once they pass through Bosnia, get stuck here after brothel owners take their passports away.

ment," Vincent Cannistraro, former CIA chief of counterterrorism, said in a telephone interview.

He said information gleaned from the Yemeni proceedings, particularly physical evidence such as bomb fragments and tissue samples that could lead to DNA identification of the suicide bombers, could provide leads for U.S. investigators who believe a broad, international conspiracy is behind the attack on the Cole. But information won't be evidence, he said.

A Yemeni trial "won't help the U.S. criminal prosecution at all, because none of the evidence is up to the standards of a U.S. court," Cannistraro said.

The U.S. official in San'a said U.S. concerns could be met but

would not elaborate on how that would be accomplished.

The American official said it was apparent Yemeni officials were aware of the attention focused on them and were working to ensure that no charges of judicial or prosecutorial impropriety would be leveled in the Cole case. The official expressed the hope that the Yemenis would be as scrupulous as possible.

Yemeni authorities have been accused of using brutal tactics and ignoring due process.

In August 1999, eight Britons and two Algerians — who prosecutors said were linked to Islamic radicals — were convicted of forming an armed gang with the aim of plotting terrorist acts in Yemen. Four of the Britons also

were found guilty of plotting to bomb the British consulate, an Anglican church and a Swiss-owned hotel in Aden.

Britain said there was insufficient evidence against the men. In its verdict, the court overruled the defense contention that the defendants confessed after they were tortured. Two of the defendants said they were sexually abused in detention.

Lawyer Adimi, who was on the defense team, said international attention forced Yemeni officials to ensure that the trial was more open than most.

But in the end, he said, the judge did what the government wanted — return convictions. "And that case was as important as this one."

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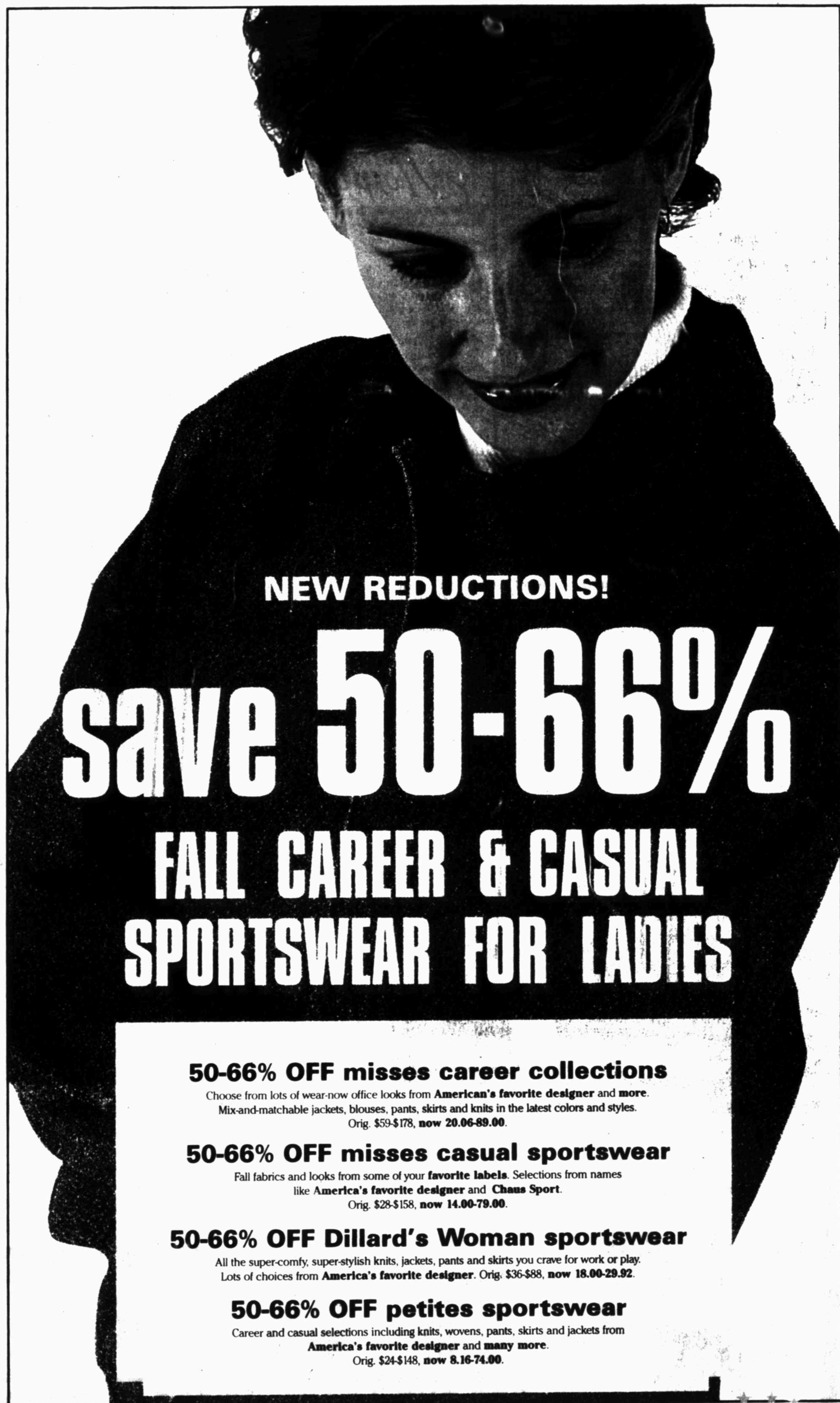
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Section B
Midland R
Thursday,

Mag

By Danielle Bel
Staff Writer

One side wants students in Midland children to benefit from a more cosmopolitan with a student body community. If it school to do this, it must be done, because of all children munity are at stake. To the other side, lives and their children thrust into a world. They wonder why told what they can they can go without. After all, it was their neighborhood want to go to a much as everyone



Combes
commen

By Mella McEw
Staff Writer

The legal battle results is being closed by the members of representatives.

Should George receive equal vote meets next month next president of

"We're looking Rep. Larry Combes whose district includes as he visited Midland noting, "we're in

He said he awaited Friday's U.S. Bush's appeal of decision to allow tional time to rec

Roger Olien, a versity of Texas would be surprised any action. "The Supreme



Jimmy Hodges, Street and Illinois was serious

Ed TODD

Tho

Ever since War II, fixed eyes on those driving fly machines, I have been fascinated with flight.

What a marvelous, to fly on wings of a mechanical bird and escape the bondage of earth — to free.

And ever since Granddaddy Fleming Williams told stories, catching rides

Magnet schools hot topic for Midlanders

By Danielle Belton
Staff Writer

One side wants diversity for all students in Midland. They want all children to benefit from the positives of a more cosmopolitan education with a student body that reflects the community. If it takes a magnet school to do this, they believe that it must be done, because the greater good of all children and the community are at stake.

To the other side it's a loss. Their lives and their children must be thrust into a world of uncertainty. They wonder why they are being told what they can do and where they can go without their consultation. After all, it was their school in their neighborhood and their kids want to go to a magnet school as much as everyone else's. To them

it isn't fair.

It is these two sides that are coming head-to-head as the Midland Independent School District moves closer and closer to making a final decision regarding Midland's two new proposed magnet schools.

On Tuesday, Dec. 12 the MISD board of trustees will vote on whether they should approve the planned lottery system for Pease and Washington elementary schools. The lottery system, which was developed in concert with MISD officials and the plaintiff parties involved in MISD's unitary status case, calls for the student body of the magnet schools to be made up of the community at large, rather than the neighborhood the schools are in.

According to the report, MISD Director of Talent/Gifted and Mag-



net Schools Patricia Maurer presented to the school board at Tuesday's meeting, the proposed lottery system would involve separating the district into three different sections. From those three groups, one-third of each magnet school's student body will be pulled from one of the



courtesy MISD

designated groups.

Parents who are interested in sending their children to the magnet schools will be asked to fill out an application for their child. Ms. Maurer said the applications will be

Please see PARENTS/3B

Teachers wonder where they'll work after magnet school plan is enacted

By Danielle Belton
Staff Writer

Students and their parents won't be the only ones who will be wondering what school they will be attending next year.

If the Midland Independent School District board of trustees approves the lottery process for the new magnet schools, teachers and staff at both Pease and Washington elementary schools may not know where they will be working come fall 2001.

All current teaching positions at Pease and Washington will be posted for employment by Dec. 15. Whether or not a teacher has been teaching at either school in question for one year or 20 years, no teacher will have a better chance of retaining their position.

Patricia Maurer, MISD director of talent/gifted and magnet

Please see TEACHERS/3B



Larry Combest, left, gets a tour of the Advanced Technology Center with Buddy Sipes and Jenny Welch by Rebecca Bell, director of the facility, Wednesday morning.

Tim Fischer
Reporter-Telegram

Combest visits technology center, offers comments on continuing election battle

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

The legal battle over the Florida election results is being closely watched, even more so by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Should George W. Bush and Al Gore receive equal votes when the Electoral College meets next month, the House will decide the next president of the United States.

"We're looking at our role closely," said U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, the Lubbock Republican whose district includes a portion of Midland, as he visited Midland and Odessa Wednesday, noting, "we're in uncharted waters."

He said he and his fellow representatives await Friday's U.S. Supreme Court hearing on Bush's appeal of the Florida Supreme Court's decision to allow some Florida counties additional time to recount votes.

Roger Olien, a history professor at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, said he would be surprised if the Supreme Court takes any action.

"The Supreme Court has a long history of

■ More on ATC visit/2B

deferring to local jurisdictions," he explained. "My hunch is they'll say it's Florida's jurisdiction."

Should the decision end up in the House — and Olien predicted that Bush would win the Electoral College vote — he said each state will have one vote and pointed out that there are more states with a Republican majority than Democratic majority.

"The problem isn't the Electoral College, it's the peculiarity of this vote," he said. "This is such a close election."

Combest said he is hopeful the election drama will conclude in the next week to 10 days "as people tire of Gore's efforts."

He said he expects legislation will be introduced to standardize election procedures and even eliminate the Electoral College.

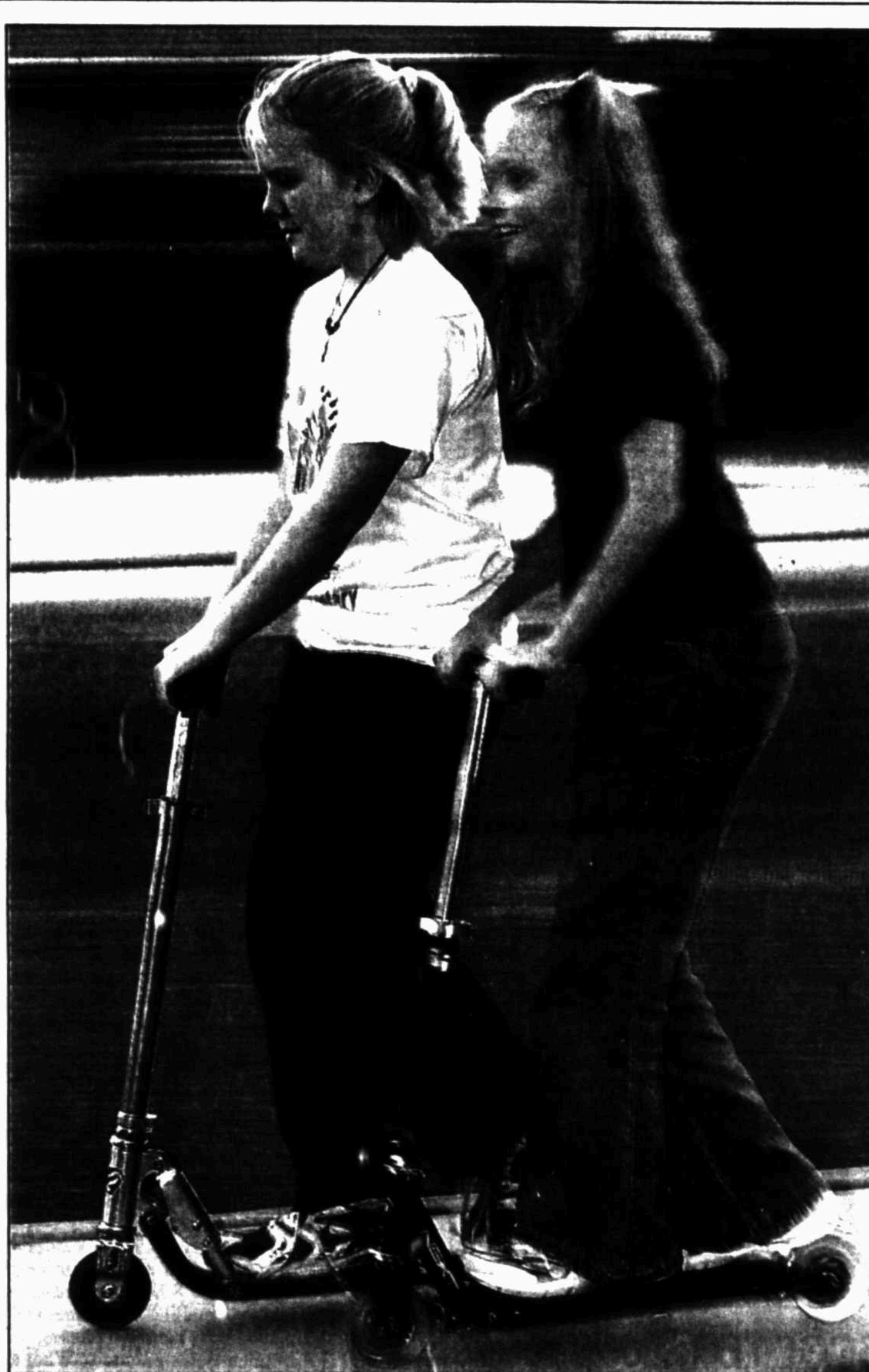
"I would be cautious in moving toward eliminating the Electoral College," Combest said. "The process we're in now was provided for

Please see VOTE/2B



Jimmy Hodges, senior lineman with TXU, checks a utility pole at the intersection of Thomas Street and Illinois Avenue, Wednesday morning following a two-car accident. Neither driver was seriously injured and Hodges said he didn't see any damage to the pole.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram



Tiffany Firkins, 9, left, and Cristin Cornal, 10, ride their scooters in their Midland neighborhood.

U. Frank Williams Jr./Reporter-Telegram

Scooter fad raises safety concerns for parents

This holiday season, the Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that approximately 5 million kickboard scooters will be sold in the United States.

This new generation of scooters, which employs the low-friction, higher performance engineering used on modern in-line skating equipment, is producing models that are faster and swifter than ever.

As these scooters continue to grow in popularity, associated mishaps are skyrocketing nationally.

The CPSC reports that injuries from scooter-related accidents have risen 700 percent since May of this year.

"We are aware of the CPSC statistics," said Midland Toys 'R' Us Manager Keith Moore. "That is one of the reasons we have launched a customer awareness program geared at reducing injuries."

Moore explained that any time Toys 'R' Us sells a scooter, the buying customer is given a pam-

Please see SCOOTER/2B

Story by Timothy V. Kreitz

ED TODD

Those wonderful childhood memories: What a blessing

Ever since I, as a child during World War II, glanced skyward and fixed my eyes on those dropping flying machines, I have been fascinated with flight.

What a marvel, I sensed, to fly on the wings of a mechanical bird and to escape the bounds of earth — to be free.

And ever since Granddaddy Asa Fleming Williams told stories, true, of course, about his catching rides on freight trains in his



Todd

youth and traveling the countryside, I have been intrigued by the sight, sound and smell of steam locomotives barreling down the rails on their steel wheels.

What romance!

Later on, he would tell tales of his toil, as a Texas & Pacific Railway Company fireman, shoving coal into the fiery bowels of locomotives cutting predestined paths along the Texas landscape. Later on, he would farm that old Delta County blackland and would speak affectionately of railroading on T&P's fixed rail lines.

By air, there were no such bounds. That virtual boundlessness holds much of flying's thrilling adventures and innate risks.

Alongside the railroad tracks, Granddaddy D. Todd, who worked much of his

life as a Southern Pacific depot agent, telegraphed and received messages in his Cooper, Texas, depot. Outside, day and night, he would welcome the steaming locomotives and their cargo.

There was much excitement in watching those driving wheels churning — sternly and powerfully hugging the rails and gathering up steam. It was exciting. Still is.

Ah, yes, my heart soared with the airplanes from take-off to landing and drove with the locomotives, from the cowcatcher to the caboose. I'm still traveling.

Even today, the sound of those propeller-driven airplanes, powered by radial and in-line engines, fully awakes my living soul and pulls my vision skyward. Trains, too, grab my attention but not

as in days of old when coal-fired and oil-burning steam locomotives whistled down the rails and made periodical stops at wooden tanks to take on water. In my travels in Europe late 1950s and early 1960s, I had the wonderful adventure of riding the rails in passenger cars pulled by steam locomotives.

And, in retrospect, it was a historical privilege to pick up soot from locomotives and to see how it decorated white dress shirts in the breeze.

My fascination with airplanes and trains is steeped in grand childhood memories. And those memories also include horses and mules, in teams or solo, pulling wagons and plows. They take in red Farmall and green, piston-popping John Deere tractors working in the East Texas blackland cotton fields.

Indelible, too, are memories of making lye soap, churning butter, planting and harvesting the garden, picking cotton, playing in the rain, feeding the hogs in their pens and the Jersey milk cows in their stalls, gathering with relatives at the holidays, enjoying the domino game, forty-two, playing old 78s on the wind-up Edison phonograph and watching chimney swifts dive into their brick homes and fly away to feed in earning their keep.

The message of all that is simply this: Childhood is and ought to be a blessed time. And sweet and imaginative memories ought to be nurtured in a spirit of wholeness and thanksgiving. That's all.

Ed Todd is a staff writer for the Reporter-Telegram.

Area briefs

Toy drive

NewsWest 9 and the Salvation Army's 10th annual Toy Drive is under way. Anyone wishing to donate new, unwrapped toys may drop them off at KWES-TV or the following Midland-Odessa Fire Stations: 1500 W. Wall; 2210 W. Golf Course; and Haynes and Midkiff.

Locations in Odessa are Loop 338 and University; 38th and Dixie; and 2nd and Lincoln. The deadline to donate the toys is Dec. 15. Toys will be displayed on the

NewsWest 9 set and distributed by the Salvation Army during Christmas week. For more information call 567-9999. To participate in other Salvation Army Christmas projects call 683-3614 or 332-0738.

Exhibit

Ichabod's will exhibit Katie Heck's watercolor works Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at 4400 N. Midland Dr. #501. Ms. Heck will be available to answer questions. For information call 697-5282.

Today's Agenda

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the Midland County Library at 688-8991.

The Permian Basin Stamp Club will meet at the General Mail Facility, Midland International Airport, 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, call Mike Cherrington at 699-0202.

Flatlanders Toastmasters Club, Chevron Bldg., 15 Smith Rd., 11:30-12:30 p.m., 987-7286.

Post traumatic stress disorder support group for women, 6 p.m., Community National Bank, 601 E. Florida Ave., 570-9412.

Optimist Club of Midland, noon, Best Western Sidewalk Cafe.

Nurses Christian Fellowship, 1:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, room 105; 520-4410 or 683-3300.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) No. T139, 7 p.m., 1007 Austin St., 694-8643.

Project ADAM, (Alternatives to Domestic Assault for Men), 570-0467.

Wound Care Center to hold foot screenings for diabetes

By Mike Yager
MRT Correspondent

Diabetes can cause numerous other ailments, including heart disease and kidney disease. In some cases, blindness can result from diabetes.

One of the most common effects of diabetes is neuropathy, or the damage to the nervous system caused by high blood sugar. This nerve damage can cause numbness of the lower extremities, in turn making the person unaware of wounds on their legs and feet.

The Wound Care Center of Midland will be holding a free foot screening at Midland Memorial Hospital today from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In conjunction with the American Diabetes Association, the Wound Care Center continues its yearly clinic in hopes of aiding National Diabetes Awareness month.

The center hopes to educate and alert the 30 percent of its patients who are diabetic to these problems, as well as others who wish to be educated. Dr. Tara Devers will be on hand, along with members of the nursing staff at the center.

"Our ultimate goal is to educate," Program Director Cory Edmondson said of the clinic. Edmondson and the other staff members wish to teach not just diabetics, but others that may be

at risk as well.

"People that are overweight are very much at risk," Edmondson said. "When the sugar levels get out of control, the body doesn't take it very well."

Diabetes can also be passed from one generation to the next. Senior citizens, as well as those in Hispanic and African-American ethnic groups, however, are most at risk.

"High blood sugar levels adversely affect the healing of any wound on the body," said Wanda Brewer, nurse manager at the Wound Care Center.

Ms. Brewer said she is also concerned about the educating the public about diabetes.

"Every organ system in the body is affected by this disease," she said.

No treatment will be given at the clinic, but doctors will screen for possible problems and make referrals to area doctors for those at risk. Both Edmondson and Ms. Brewer seemed optimistic and confident in the success of the screening. With an increasing emphasis on education in nutrition and exercise, the prevention of problems will be far greater in the future, they said.

Those wishing to attend the screening are advised to call in advance. For more information, visit the Wound Care Center at Midland Memorial Hospital, 2200 W. Illinois Ave. or call 685-4850.

SCOOTER: Local retailers say no one buys safety equipment

(From 1B)

phlet filled with scooter safety tips and suggestions on types of protective equipment. The pamphlet, entitled "Be cool, ride smart!" offers information on proper riding technique, scooter maintenance and riding gear such as helmets, knee and elbow pads and wrist guards.

"We can't force people to buy safety gear, but we certainly encourage it," Moore said. "We also train our employees on bicycle and scooter safety, so they can act as an additional resource for our customers."

Taking the scooter craze to an even higher level are companies like Midland Power Sports, that sell not only foot-powered scooters, but motorized, gas-powered ones as well.

Midland Power Sports' Rodger Gertson said not many people even consider the need for protective gear when purchasing a scooter. "People usually don't realize the risk of riding scooters, motorized or otherwise, until they have their first accident," he said. "Preventative thinking and planning is the key to safety when riding scooters, bicycles, motorcycles or anything of the like." Gertson said it is a rare occurrence when someone purchasing a scooter inquires about buying any kind of protective gear to go with it.

However, the national statistics concerning scooter acci-

dents don't seem to be manifesting locally, as many emergency care providers reported no tangible increase in scooter or bicycle accidents during the May to October time frame.

"We've certainly had no increase in those types of mishaps," said Urgent Care Center nursing director Nancy Butler. "In fact, we rarely see those kinds of accident injuries at all." Ms. Butler went on to say that the majority of the adolescent and teen injuries the Urgent Care Center handles are sports-related. "Football injuries are our main order of business right now," she said. "It's just that time of year."

Moore said Toys 'R' Us remains committed to creating public awareness about scooter safety, no matter what the local accident rate may be. "Scooters are tons of fun," he said. "We just want kids and parents to be given the right information for keeping the experience enjoyable, instead of painful."

Toys 'R' Us suggests safety pads with high shock absorption ability, a helmet that fits properly, and buying scooters that have performance wheel bearings, which are more dependable and smoother riding.

The CPSC estimates more than 60 percent of injuries could be prevented or at least reduced in severity if the proper gear is worn when riding scooters, bicycles, or when in-line skating.

OBITUARIES



Norbon Sikes Jr.

Norbon P. Sikes Jr., 76, passed away Monday, November 26, 2000, at a local hospital. He was born October 4, 1924 in Rowden,

Texas, to Norbon P. Sikes, Sr. and Emma Antha (Gibbs) Sikes. Norbon graduated from Portales High School in 1943, and then served in the U.S. Army from January 4, 1945 to November 14, 1946. He served in the Pacific Theater during WWII with the 8th Army in the Philippines and Yokohama, Japan, attaining the rank of Corporal.

After the war, Mr. Sikes went on to attend college and graduated from Texas Tech College in 1952, earning a degree in Civil Engineering. He was employed with Gulf/Chevron Oil Corp. as a Petroleum Engineer and served as the Chief Production and Design Engineer for the Western Division prior to retiring in 1986 after 34 years of service. In retirement, Norbon was a member of the Fairmont Park Church of Christ, and was a volunteer

with the Santa Rita Club of the Petroleum Museum. He married Dorothea Mae Lane on February 26, 1960 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The family resided in Oklahoma City, Monahans, Texas, and Hobbs, N.M., before moving to Midland in 1980. While in Monahans, Texas, Norbon served as a city councilman and as a member of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission.

Norbon will be remembered as a devout Christian, and loving and supportive father and husband. He was preceded in death by a sister, Joy; and a brother, Noble C. Sikes. He is survived by Dorothea Lane Sikes, his wife of 40 years; and two sons, John Norbon Sikes and Dr. James Lane Sikes of Midland, Texas. Surviving siblings are Jack Sikes (Robbie) of York, Neb., Bob Sikes (Janet) of Valley Center, Calif., Barry Sikes

(Ruth) of Portales, N.M., Don Sikes (Bessie) of Hawley, Texas, Wilma Pierce (Ulys) of Hereford, Texas, Belinda Blue (Clay) of Portales, N.M., Billie Tabor (Leon) of Liberal, Kan., Moy Dudley of Portland, Ore., Kathryn Cox (Jim) of Elephant Butte, N.M.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Sikes will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, November 30, at Fairmont Park Church of Christ, with Steve Bailey officiating. Graveside services will be held at Resthaven Memorial Park immediately following the service. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

If desired, memorials may be sent to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356 New Mexico 236, Portales, N.M. 88130-9411.

DEATH NOTICES

Chester Stephens

ODESSA — Chester Conway Stephens, 87, died Wednesday, Nov. 29, at a local hospital.

Graveside services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

He was born Aug. 29, 1913 in Paris.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He moved to Odessa in 1942. He worked for Odessa Cleaners, later owned and operated Stephen's Cleaners for 10 years, then retired and continued working in the dry cleaning business. He was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Annadell Partain Stephens of Odessa; a daughter, Connie Long of Aztec, N.M.; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Nellie Brown

SAN ANTONIO — Nellie Mae Brown, 90, mother of Midlander Betty Byrom, died Saturday, Nov. 25, in San Antonio.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with John Massie

officiating. Visitation was held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Home of Pampa.

She was born Feb. 21, 1910 in Siboney, Okla.

She lived in Pampa from 1953-75, Midland from 1975 to 1981, and San Antonio from June 1981 until her death. She was a member of MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio, Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ in Pampa and West Side Church of Christ in Midland. She was a child care provider in Pampa and Midland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Brown in 1971; and six children.

Survivors include five sons, Ray Brown of Houston, William Brown of Dickens, Byron Brown of Adair, Okla., Leonard Brown of Lubbock, and Howard Brown of Louisville; four daughters, Nellie Ingram of Jenks, Okla., Darla Morgan of Coppell, Earlene Massie of San Antonio, and Betty Byrom of Midland; three brothers, Ed Howard of Sentinel, Okla., Bret Howard of Pleasant Hope, Mo., and Nadie Howard of Arlington; 45 grandchildren, 80 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Velda Lee

HOBBS, N.M. — Velda P. Lee, 87, mother of Midlander Jane George, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Hobbs.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at First Baptist Church in Eunice, N.M., with the Rev. Dr. Dean Mathis officiating. Burial will be at Brunson Memorial Cemetery in Eunice. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. today, Nov. 30, at Calvary Funeral Home in Eunice.

She was born April 15, 1913.

She moved from Beaumont to Eunice in 1944, then to Hobbs in 1987. She was a homemaker and a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Eunice.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Byron Jackson Lee; a son, Jimmy Lee; two sisters, and four brothers.

Survivors include three daughters, Peggy Colborn of Eunice, Jane George of Midland, and Mickey Sanders of Dallas; a sister, Era Sutton of La Porte; a half-brother, Bill Everett of Abilene; nine grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, and three great-great-great-grandchildren.

Loland Hale

COTTONDALE — Loland C. Hale, 73, father of Midlander Lanette Davis, died Tuesday, Nov. 27, in Decatur.

Funeral services will be 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, in the Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home Chapel in Odessa with the Rev. Griffin Jones officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

He was born Nov. 23, 1927 in Detroit, Mich.

He moved to Odessa in 1937, and to Cottondale in 1997. He was a Medical Corpsman serving in the U.S. Army during World War II at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda Ruth Grimes in July 1959; and two brothers, Thomas Wilson and Bob Hale.

Survivors include a son, Glenn Hale of Paradise; three daughters, Beth Cox of Grand Junction, Colo., Lanette Davis of Midland, and Landra Priestly of San Antonio; a sister, Sharlene Wagner of Odessa; nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, 2222 Welborn Street, Dallas, TX 75219.

Combest visits technology center while in town

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

Officials at the Advanced Technology Center played host to U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, the Lubbock Republican whose District 19 includes a portion of Midland County.

Combest helped the center receive a \$400,000 federal Housing and Urban Development grant under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities Program and continues to help the center seek additional grants.

As Rebecca Guid, the center's director, guided Combest through the 80,000 square foot facility, detailing its services and plans for its next two phases, he frequently commented "What a great service."

The center, he said, supports his belief in local control over education matters.

"More local control gives the community flexibility in meeting their education needs," he said.

Viewing, funeral set for Henry B. Gonzalez

By Michelle Klodin
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Longtime U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez will be laid to rest Saturday following a funeral Mass at the famed San Fernando Cathedral in his hometown of San Antonio.

Gonzalez died Tuesday at the age of 84.

The many Texans who admired Gonzalez as a hero will have several opportunities to pay their respects.

Viewing will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday at San Fernando, followed by a rosary at 7 p.m. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, followed by the funeral Mass at noon. Burial will be at San Fernando Cemetery No. 2.

The 262-year-old downtown San Antonio cathedral has become familiar to Catholics across Texas and elsewhere because of a bilingual Sunday Mass that is broadcast internationally.

The cathedral's rector, the Rev. David Garcia, will preside over the services for Gonzalez.

It will be a traditional Catholic funeral, said Adrian Saenz, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, the elder Gonzalez's son.

"The people of Midland should be able to decide what is important to the community, they can invest their dollars and not have anyone from the federal government standing over them telling them what needs to be done or how it needs to be done," he said.

He noted this is the second such center in his district — the first is in Lubbock — and "the benefits are phenomenal."

Ms. Bell said Combest has been very supportive of the center, not only helping secure the \$400,000 HUD grant but is lending support to her efforts to secure a \$900,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration to help fund Phase II of the center, even sending a letter to the EDA on behalf of the center.

Phase II would include areas for automotive technology, welding technology, an industrial training center for automotive training and additional Computer Assisted Design and Computer Assisted Manufacturing classrooms along with a

VOTE: Officials believe election magnified value of a few votes

(From 1B)

in the Constitution and some very smart people wrote that document. I would be hesitant to jump in and make changes."

Standardizing voting procedures would be difficult, he said, because election procedures are considered each state's right. But, he said, Congress will study ways to improve the process.

"It's always good to debate and discuss these issues," he

said.

Like Combest, Olien expects there will be much discussion but little action taken in the next session of Congress.

Both men also agree one benefit that has arisen from the Nov. 7 election is that it has shown Americans the value of each vote and perhaps prompted more people to become more politically active.

98-seat lecture hall equipped with laptop computers, a second lecture hall equipped with long-distance learning technology and a ready response room to provide customized training for a new or existing manufacturer or business.

Ms. Bell said the center cur-

rently has 150 Midland Independent School District students enrolled but expects 700 next year and has 500 Midland College students enrolled but expects 1,500 next year, based on completion of Phase II.

TODAY'S FUNERALS

NORBON SIKES JR.
1 p.m. Fairmont Park Church of Christ

CECIL WILLIAMS
3 p.m. Ellis Chapel

Attend the
Third Annual
Tree of Memories
Memorial Service
in our chapel
at 801 Andrews Hwy.
December 4th
at 7:00 p.m.

Ellis Funeral Home
683-5555

BIBLE LESSON
KMID TV2
1:35 am
Wednesday
Thursday &
Friday
Nights

Watch and listen to know that
God's love is always available.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL
KCRS 550AM
8:00 am
every
Sunday

Celtic
Crosses
inspired by
original
carved stone
crosses in
Scotland &
Ireland...
from \$45
available at:

FOLGER GALLERIES
697-3778

PAR

(From 1B)

neutral on the socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic impairment, proximity to the school. No student ever chance getting school than any other.

The mostly African-American students recently attending Washington schools — to either the magnets or bused to either the Greathouse or the Magnetaries — which predominantly by the lottery.

"The lottery is designed to do to the Maurer said. "To population at the school and to in at Fanning, G. Scharbauer as well."

It is this possibility is not sitting with Pease and Washington parents. Alternately refreshing, concerned about the of the schools, them. They now school board do process, what children?

"To me this is hood school," elementary PTA T Mendoza.

Ms. Mendoza currently attends P years old and sixth grade next doza is concerned effect her grandson get into Pease's program.

"I've already son that he will be er next year if he magnet school

El Paso

EL PASO (AP) — agency that accredits colleges and universities a report critical of trustees are governing Community College College officials to respond to the day in Atlanta headquarters.

After a three-month, a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools the college's board allegedly violated code of ethics at in personnel management.

Real-life

CONROE (AP) — grinch has Christmas from southeast Texas.

Thieves broke building some p.m. Saturday day and stole a foster child's gomery County agency, officials.

They took big games, clothing sets that had already in plastic bags families, said aging director of ed Advocates for

"Foster families stretched, especially," Egan said.

One couple foster children of its own, she

The thieves third of the toy is intended for ter children at Egan said.

Egan is determined will not

Since we st have never children, and to disappoint she said. "If it of directors d pockets and co

Terry's KIDS
Our big com
DRESS
JACKIE KID
Midland Plaza
52

**How is the
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PARENTS: Students may be bused to different schools

(From 1B)

neutral on the basis of race, socioeconomic background, physical impairment, academics and proximity to the schools in question. No student will have a better chance getting into the magnet school than any other.

The mostly Hispanic and African-American students currently attending Pease and Washington will have two choices — to either reapply for the schools once they are converted to magnets or choose to be bused to either Scharbauer, Greathouse or Fannin elementary — which are all attended predominantly by white children.

"The lottery system has been designed to do two things," Ms. Maurer said. "To create a diverse population at the schools themselves and to increase diversity at Fannin, Greathouse and Scharbauer as well."

It is this possible decision that is not sitting well with many Pease and Washington elementary parents. Although this system is refreshing to many concerned about the racial makeup of the schools, it has alarmed them. They now wonder if the school board does approve this process, what will come of their children?

"To me this is our neighborhood school," said Pease Elementary PTA Treasurer Karen Mendoza.

Ms. Mendoza's grandson currently attends Pease. He is 10 years old and will be attending sixth grade next year. Ms. Mendoza is concerned how this will effect her grandson if he does not get into Pease's magnet school program.

"I've already told my grandson that he will be going to Parker next year if he can't go to the magnet school at Pease," Ms.

Mendoza said. "If the kids here want to stay at Pease and do a magnet school then I think they should have the chance. I hate that he'd have to go to Parker for one year if I can't get him into Pease."

Ms. Mendoza was one of the many Pease and Washington parents who said they were under the false impression that there would be special preferences for the current students enrolled. Midland PTA President Latrese Kendrick said she and many of the parents she had spoken with were unaware that their children may be bused.

"I was thinking that they were going to let the neighborhood kids go if they wanted to," Ms. Kendrick said. "The parents there are thinking that they have first choice. I think some of them are going to be kind of mad. At Pease the minorities are getting a double-whammy — they're going to get kicked out of their school and bused."

One of the plaintiff partners, Dr. Viola Coleman, addressed the board at Tuesday night's meeting and pointed out the magnet schools belonged to the entire Midland community rather than their individual neighborhoods.

"Since the magnet schools would be using the taxpayers' money it should be an open enrollment of all of the students in Midland," Dr. Coleman said. "Our commitment has always been what you do for one, you do for the other. And we did not feel that the children at Pease and Washington deserved any special treatment because they lived in that neighborhood."

Dr. Coleman went on to explain that because the schools were technically property of the taxpayers, the magnet schools

should not belong to just one or two communities. She said the plaintiff partners as a group had decided that if they were for integration some necessary sacrifices would have to be made.

Despite knowing this, many parents and even some board members are finding the possibility of a forced move and busing for Pease and Washington students to be hard to swallow.

"I personally don't like that in the sense that these students are being displaced," said MISD board member Dale Strauss. "It's different from the other kids in the district — these kids are losing their home school. We should be more flexible in where we're allowing them to go."

Strauss said he'd like to see the lottery process revised to allow for more provisions and choices for the students of Pease and Washington.

Ms. Maurer said she understands the parents concern, but she felt the decision she, MISD and the plaintiff partners are making is part of a much larger issue.

"That was the most difficult part of the process," Ms. Maurer said at Tuesday's board meeting.

Ms. Maurer said the decisions they are making will hopefully ensure two very diverse magnets schools and will help three predominantly white schools improve their diversity in the process.

Knowing their potential sacrifice will help the greater good provides no comfort for many parents facing an uncertain future for their children. Most said they plan on taking a wait-and-see approach to see what choices or lack of choices their future will yield.

TEACHERS: Stipend sparks debate

(From 1B)

schools, said the jobs at the two schools will be posted all over the state. Ms. Maurer described Pease's and Washington's current teaching staffs as being "excellent" and she encourages those who are interested to apply for positions at the magnet schools.

"If they want to stay and be part of the magnet school program they'll have to apply to be part of that class," Ms. Maurer said. "I am sure that many members of the current staff will elect to reapply and will be part of the staff."

Ms. Maurer also pointed out that some teachers may not be interested in teaching at a magnet school. She is proposing that the magnet teachers will be working longer hours to accommodate for the specialized learning programs the schools will have in place.

For the teachers that either elect not to apply, or do apply and are not selected to teach at the magnet schools, they will be reassigned to other schools in the district. All the teachers at Pease and Washington have a contract with MISD therefore they will not be losing their jobs.

Some area teachers are suggesting that if the Pease and Washington teachers are subjected to reassignment they should be assigned first before all other teachers in the district who would like to volunteer for reassignment. Midland Classroom Teachers Association President Shelley Reep believes that teachers at the two future magnet schools should even get first

choice over potential new hires to the district.

Ms. Reep was one of the many teachers and administrators on the MISD magnet programming committee. Having Pease and Washington teachers be chosen first for reassignment was one of the committee's recommendations.

"Some (teachers) are applying for the schools — others don't want to put in that time," Ms. Reep said. "We did discuss that we wanted those teachers taken care of before they do their regular transfer list."

Another issue some area teachers are taking to task regarding the magnet schools is the \$4,000 stipend MISD may be offering magnet school teachers in addition to their regular pay. While some teachers felt this was an added incentive that will be well received, others felt it was disrespectful to other teachers in the district who already work extra hours for free.

"If they are going to do a \$4,000 raise then all Midland teachers should receive a raise," said Midland Federation of Teachers secretary Cindy Bond. "We have teachers who are up at their schools now working until 5 p.m. and on the weekends. I don't really understand the logic of a magnet teacher getting a raise."

According to Ms. Maurer the stipend was being offered as an incentive to attract skilled teachers as well as compensate them for the extra hours they will be required to work. According to Ms. Maurer, magnet school teachers will be required to work an additional 45 minutes

each school day, plus the possibility of working with the extended day programs the magnet school will offer. Those programs will take place after school from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The staff also will be required to work some extra days in the summer as well.

Ms. Maurer explained to the MISD board of trustees during Tuesday night's meeting that the \$4,000 stipend would pay for the additional hours of work.

While Ms. Bond felt the extra work magnet school teachers would receive would be no more than what was expected out of most teachers, Ms. Reep felt perhaps \$4,000 wouldn't be enough money for some.

"I think it's (the stipend) wonderful if you have to work extra hours," Ms. Reep said. "I don't know if the \$4,000 is quite enough because it's based on a 5-year teacher's salary."

Ms. Reep explained that since she is a 12-year teacher, if she chose to work at the magnet school the stipend would not adjust to her normal pay scale. The \$4,000 is a flat rate regardless of experience and years with the district.

The MISD board of trustees will be making their final decision regarding the magnet schools on Dec. 12. During that regular board meeting they will vote on the lottery system that plaintiff parties in the district's unitary status request and Ms. Maurer helped develop. After that decision the district will look into how they will handle the possible reassignment of many of Pease's and Washington's teachers.

El Paso Community College fights bad report

EL PASO (AP) — A private agency that accredits Texas colleges and universities has issued a report critical of the way trustees are governing El Paso Community College.

College officials are scheduled to respond to the report on Friday in Atlanta, the agency's headquarters.

After a three-day visit earlier this month, a committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools cited some of the college's board members for allegedly violating the EPCC's code of ethics and for meddling in personnel matters and other

administrative areas.

College Trustee Arturo Huerta disputed most of the report's findings and pointed to one statement by the committee that it found "many of the alleged actions by board members impossible to confirm, inaccurate or caused by" other people.

"To be honest, I don't see where any board member may have violated that (ethics) code," Huerta said.

The inquiry began after the association received complaints from former EPCC President Bill Campion, some current staff members and some student

government officials.

The report notes that this is the third time since 1991 that the college has had such "governance problems" and that the college was warned in 1995 that "further instances of noncompliance ... would result in the institution being placed directly on probation or being dropped from membership."

"They were on warning for one year after the last visit (in 1993) for accreditation," Jack Allen, associate executive director of the association's Commission on Colleges, said Wednesday. He said the earlier

problems were similar to the current allegations, but declined to reveal any of the details in the report.

Allen said a final decision could be reached on Monday. However, the association also could delay the decision if it needs more information, he added.

He said the outcome can range from clearing the college to removing its accreditation. Loss of accreditation usually comes only after "a history of continuous problems," Allen said.

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Real-life grinch steals foster children's gifts

CONROE (AP) — Real-life grinch has tried to steal Christmas from as many as 300 southeast Texas foster children.

Thieves broke into a storage building sometime between 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday and stole gifts collected for foster children by a Montgomery County social service agency, officials said Tuesday.

They took bicycles, electronic games, clothing and television sets that had already been placed in plastic bags for delivery to families, said Judy Egan, managing director of Court Appointed Advocates for Children.

"Foster families' budgets are stretched, especially at the holidays," Egan said.

One couple is caring for 13 foster children, as well as four of its own, she said.

The thieves took about one-third of the toy stockpile, which is intended for 250 to 300 foster children and their families, Egan said.

Egan is determined the children will not go without presents.

"Since we started the program we have never disappointed the children, and we are not going to disappoint them this year," she said. "If it means the board of directors digging into their pockets and coming up with the

money, we will find the gifts." The program operates in Montgomery County just north

of Houston, with about 340 volunteers overseen by several staff members.

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NOTICE

The City of Midland has prepared the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000 program year. The CAPER describes the progress toward addressing needs identified in the City of Midland's Consolidated Plan for Community Development and Housing funds. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the City to prepare a Consolidated Plan as a prerequisite for participation in various HUD programs.

The CAPER may be examined at the following locations:

City Secretary's Office -- Room 340, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine

Midland County Public Library -- 301 W. Missouri

Midland Centennial Branch Library -- 4511 N. Midkiff Road

Casa de Amigos -- 1101 E. Garden Lane

SE Community Senior Center -- 1803 E. Indiana

A brief summary of the CAPER may be viewed on the City of Midland web site, www.ci.midland.tx.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm. Please direct any written comments to the City's Community Development Office at P.O. Box 1152, Midland, Texas 79702, by December 15, 2000. After any appropriate revisions and inclusion of a citizen comment section to the CAPER, it will be submitted by December 29, 2000 to HUD. The final report will be available at the City Secretary's Office.

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Judge expected to rule on Cheney residency case

By Susan Parrott
Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas federal judge known as a conservative constructionist could take the unlikely step of blocking the Bush-Cheney ticket from winning the White House. But his decision is not likely to be influenced by partisanship, colleagues say.

U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater, a Republican appointed by former President Ronald Reagan, may take action this week on a lawsuit filed by three Texans challenging the Wyoming residency status of Dick Cheney, Gov. George Bush's running mate. Cheney moved to Dallas when he became CEO of Halliburton Co. in 1995.

The suit cites the 12th Amendment of the Constitution, which says if the president and vice president are inhabitants of the same state, they can't earn that state's electoral votes.

Cheney's attorneys have asked that the suit be dismissed. A similar lawsuit was dismissed

in Florida on Nov. 20.

Fitzwater, who took no action on the dismissal motion but ordered Cheney to answer some questions submitted by the plaintiffs, did not return requests for an interview Wednesday.

Also this week, a class-action lawsuit listing 1,915 plaintiffs was filed in Austin, claiming that Cheney and Bush cannot earn Texas' 32 electoral votes because Cheney — like Bush — is a Texas inhabitant.

Colleagues said Fitzwater's political leanings are irrelevant to his rulings.

"He is a lifelong Republican. But that will have no bearing," said Fort Worth attorney and former law associate Marshall Searcy. "He is absolutely above partisan politics when it comes to dispensing his judicial role."

"He is one of the straightest arrows I've ever met in my life," Searcy said. "He doesn't smoke, drink, chew or use foul language."

Fitzwater in 1985 was sworn in as the youngest federal judge in the United States. He was 32, a veteran of six years of corpo-



AP Photo
Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney meets with staff and family in his office at the campaign's transition offices Wednesday in McLean, Va.

rate law practice and another four on the bench of Texas' 298th District Court in Dallas.

U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins said Fitzwater "has a reputation for being scrupulous, fair and very deliberate."

"He avoids any appearance of impropriety," Coggins said. "He's got an impeccable

record."

Fitzwater graduated in 1976 from Baylor University, where he earned his law degree in just two years.

He practiced at Vinson & Elkins law firm in Houston for two years, before joining the Dallas law firm of Rain, Harrell, Emery, Young & Dole.

Practicing members of the Dallas Bar Association hold him in esteem.

Fitzwater received a 95 percent overall approval rating from the Dallas Bar Association in its 1999 poll.

Association president W. Mike Baggett said Fitzwater is a "highly respected judge" who is careful "to never do anything that would somehow influence the outcome of a matter he's involved in."

"I've never heard a lawyer criticize his judicial qualifications," Baggett said.

Fitzwater has said he decided to become a lawyer when he was 5 years old, mostly because he admired the lawyer who lived next door. But his desire to be a judge didn't surface until well after law school. His first ambition had been politics.

Politically active in both high school and college, Fitzwater said his ambition during and after law school was to practice

trial law for a few years and then run for public office.

Fitzwater established Republican credentials after settling in Dallas in 1978. When the Texas Legislature created the 298th District Court in Dallas County, Fitzwater won the election by a comfortable margin and took office in the spring of 1982.

He was appointed as a federal judge by Reagan, on the recommendation of fellow Republican U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm.

Fitzwater is no stranger to lawsuits involving high-profile individuals.

Last year, he dismissed a lawsuit filed by Dallas Cowboys Michael Irvin and Erik Williams against police after a woman accused the football players of sexually assaulting her in 1996. Fitzwater ruled the players failed to prove allegations that police violated their civil rights during investigation of the charges.

Perry calls Gore challenges 'pathetic'

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Still waiting to know if he'll be Texas' next governor, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry lashed out at Vice President Al Gore, calling Gore's continued attempts to force vote recounts in Florida "pathetic."

"I think it's time for him to concede. He needs to hang 'em up. This race is over with," said Perry, who would become governor if George W. Bush ultimately wins the presidency.

"He (Gore) seems to be begging the American people to let him win," Perry said. "It's kind of pathetic."

Perry said this week his office is working on a possible transition to the governor's office should Bush resign his state post.

Although Florida officials have certified Bush the winner there, court challenges have left the presidential election in doubt.

If Bush does become president, Perry would automatically become governor. The state Senate would then have to pick one of its own members to serve as lieutenant governor.

The potential campaign there has drawn as many as six "favorites" to replace Perry, most of them Republican in a chamber where the GOP holds a 16-15 majority.

Sen. Ken Armbrister of Victoria, the only Democrat considered as a possible candidate, said he doesn't think a front runner has emerged from the group.

A conservative Democrat like himself could win the post if he could draw support from Republican senators, he said.

Asked if he had any commitments from GOP lawmakers, Armbrister said, "I haven't even asked any yet."

There has been some speculation that a senator could get a majority vote if he or she promised not to run a statewide campaign in two years. Armbrister said he would not ask any candidate to make such a promise.

"That individual may turn out to be the best one we've ever had. I would never put that requirement on any of my colleagues," he said.

A key issue among senators whether the next lieutenant gov-

ernor could be fair when handling redistricting. State lawmakers next year will redraw the lines for legislative and congressional voting districts.

"Everybody wants to be

assured there's going to be fairness in the redistricting process," Armbrister said. "(That) somebody is not going to be out there just slashing and burning."

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3-year-old dies after falling off trailer

DICKINSON (AP) — Police were investigating on Wednesday the death of a 3-year-old girl who died after she fell from a moving trailer.

No charges have been filed in the case and Dickinson police Capt. Steve Krone said he doesn't believe any will be filed because there was no negligence in the case.

Kayla Kuypers was riding on a flatbed trailer being pulled by a tractor on a pasture when she fell just after 4 p.m. Tuesday. Two of her siblings also were riding on the trailer, Dickinson Police Sgt. Michael Anzualda said.

When Kayla's father, who drove the tractor, noticed she was no longer on the trailer, he stopped it and found his daughter on the ground.

Kayla was flown to the University of Texas Medical

Branch hospital in nearby Galveston with severe head injuries. She died shortly after arriving at the hospital, officials said.

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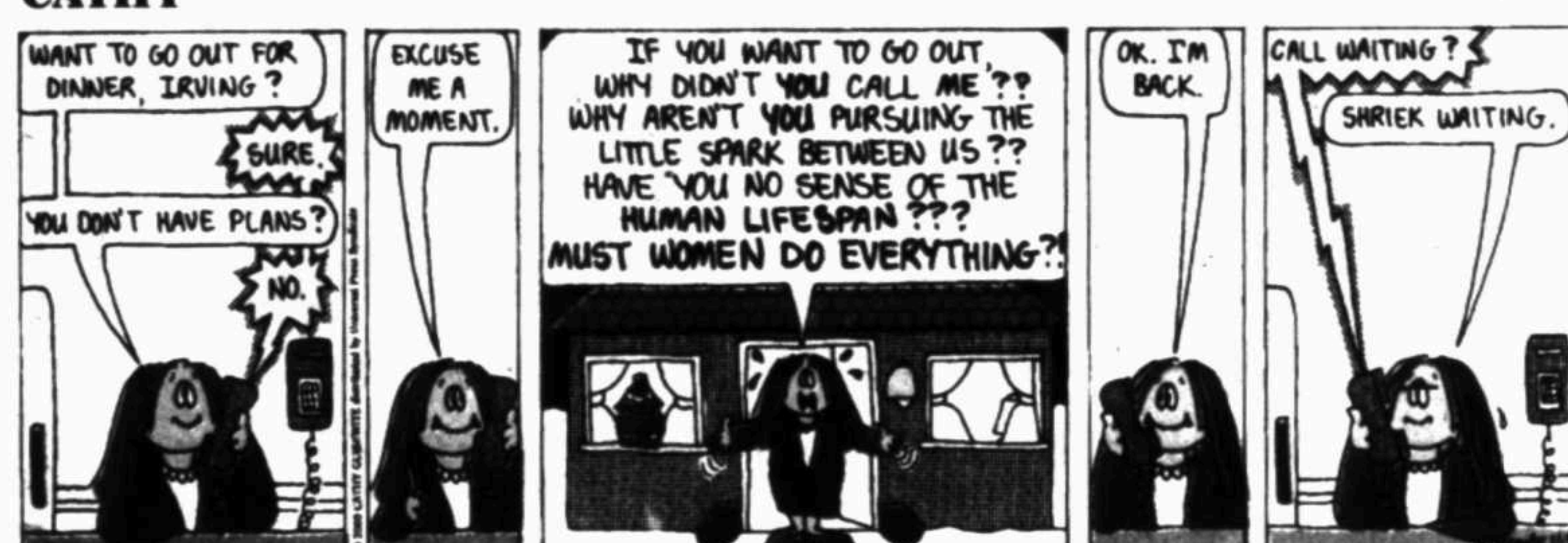
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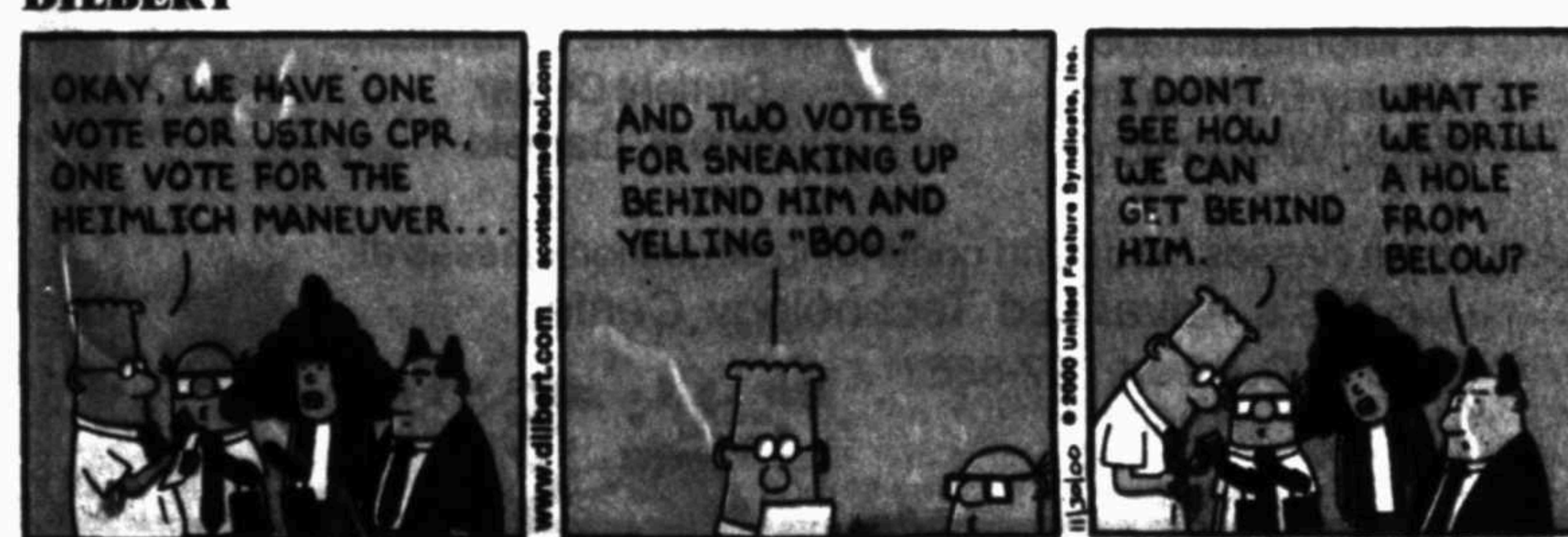
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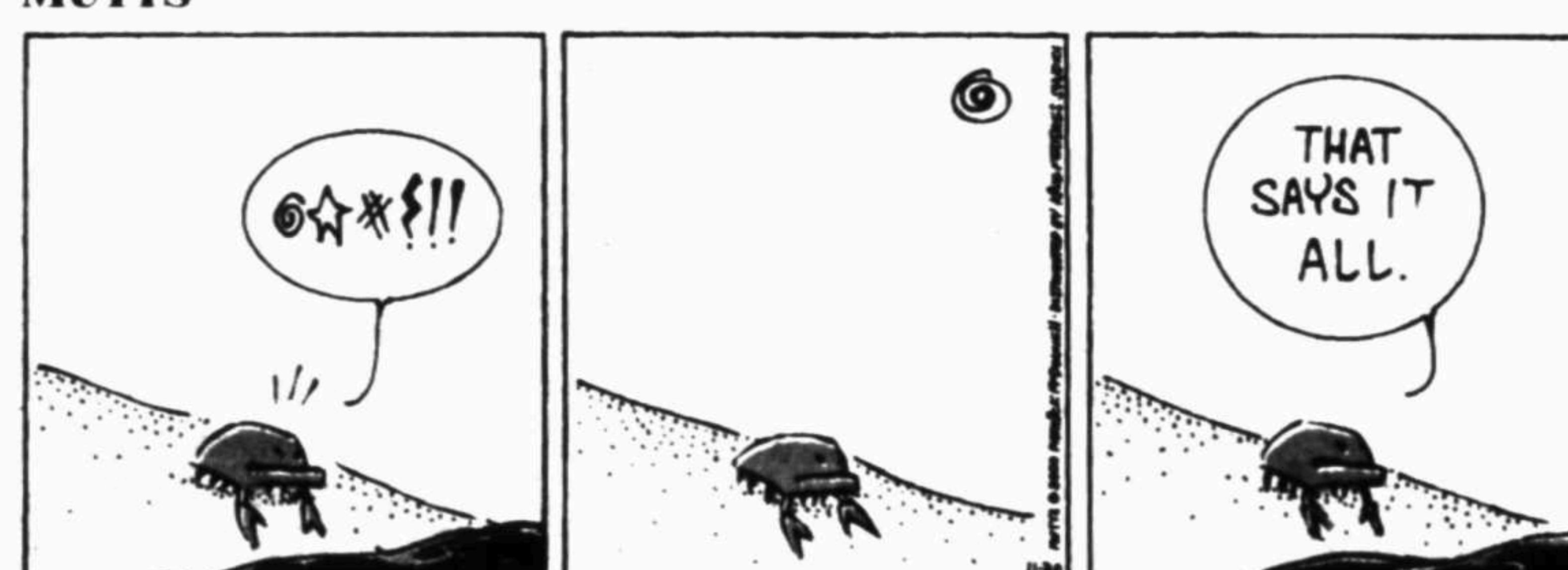
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NOV 30 2000

Britain suffers heaviest autumn rainfall in more than 200 years

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — The crowd greeting Prince Andrew in the village of Yalding was enthusiastic, despite the heaviest rainfall in more than 200 years. "Welcome to the sinkhole of Kent!" resident Tom Milton called out as the second son of Queen Elizabeth II arrived on a morale-boosting visit.

Across England, where double the average rainfall has fallen this autumn, rivers have burst their banks, thousands of people have been displaced and more than a dozen have died.

Yalding, about 40 miles southeast of London in the county of Kent, is one of the soggiest corners of a waterlogged land. The River Medway has flooded three times in six weeks, swamping businesses and driving more than 200 people from their homes.

And still it keeps raining. "You wouldn't expect much in the way of settled weather at this time of year, but this has been exceptional," Meteorological Office spokesman Colin Donnelly said. "We're talking about double the average rainfall."

Instead of the usual fall mix of damp weather leavened by bouts of sunshine, Britons have endured day after day of drumming rain, with occasional gale-force winds thrown in for good measure.

By the start of this week, England and Wales had received an average of 18.46 inches of rain since Sept. 1 — the highest total since record-keeping began in 1766. The average rainfall for autumn is 9.05 inches.

The rain has caused the worst flooding in more than 50 years. Combined with a troubled rail network — cracked tracks, derailments and the perennial fall problem of "leaves on the line" — it has created misery for



AP Photo
A police officer uses an inflatable boat to deliver milk and other supplies to homes flooded with water from the River Ouse, in Bishophthorpe near York, England, recently. Across England, where double the average rainfall has fallen this autumn, rivers have burst their banks, thousands of people have been displaced and more than a dozen have died.

many Britons.

But not for Steve Hayes, whose company sells light-therapy devices.

"We've been hiring people to keep up with demand," said Hayes, managing director of Cambridge-based Outside In. "Last autumn was the sunniest since 1904 and our business went down a bit. This year, we're miles ahead."

Hayes estimates 15 percent of the British population suffers from symptoms of winter depression, or Seasonal Affective Disorder.

It's not only humans who are suffering from the wet weather. Fall storms have felled hundreds of trees in London's parks and put some animals at risk, according to the London Wildlife Trust.

The good news is that Britain's weather is not necessarily becoming wetter — just more unpredictable.

Many experts predict climate change will exaggerate existing

weather patterns, producing more intense storms and "freak" occurrences such as floods.

"It's not possible, of course, to be sure these storms are the result of climate change," Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an Internet broadcast earlier this month. "But the increasing frequency of such extreme weather here, in the rest of Europe and around the world, does lend support to those who say that global warming is no longer a theory but is a daily fact of life."

Faced with months of rain, many Britons simply flee. Travel company Thomas Cook reported that during the first week of November, bookings of winter sun holidays rose 17 percent over the same period in 1999.

Others endure with the famed stiff upper lip.

"It seems everybody has been extremely stoic," Prince Andrew said in Yalding this week. "I have quite definitely seen some British spirit here."

Former colonel pleads innocent to ordering massacre

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A former police colonel accused of ordering the massacre of 111 prisoners pleaded innocent Wednesday, saying the 1992 invasion of Carandiru prison during a riot was meant to save lives.

Ubiratan Guimaraes, who could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted, said he ordered police to invade the cellblock and quell the riot because he feared that a fire set by inmates could spread. He denied giving orders to kill prisoners.

Prosecutors say Guimaraes ordered the execution of the 111 inmates officially reported killed in the uprising on Oct. 2, 1992. Human rights groups and survivors put the death toll at nearly 300.

"This is one of the most serious cases not only in Latin America, but in the history of the world's prisons," said James Cavallaro, an American human rights defender and director of Global Justice Human Rights Action and Training. "If Guimaraes is acquitted, it is only going to worsen Brazil's human rights image."

Violence is a constant in Carandiru, Latin America's largest prison. Built for 3,200 inmates, it now holds 7,600. It held even more in 1992, when the riot broke out in cellblock 9 between prisoners who were reportedly settling old scores.

Riot troops invaded the cellblock with dogs and submachine guns, reportedly killing scores of inmates. One survivor, Milton Marques Viana, told journalists allowed to tour the prison that the dead inmates had been "executed or killed by indiscriminate shooting by riot troops or by police dogs that ripped them apart."

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6-7:30 p.m.—Chili Supper
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Chap Center preceding the basketball game, Chaps vs.
Wayland Baptist JV at 8 p.m.
6:30-8:45 p.m.—Campus Christmas Lighting
at the Hodge Carillon Tower.
7 p.m.—Opening reception, Fall Student Art Show
in McCormick Gallery in the Allison Fine Arts Building,
with entertainment provided by the
Midland College Winds.
7:30 p.m.—Chaparral Singers Christmas Concert,
Wagner and Brown Auditorium, AFA Building.
7-9 p.m.—Sixth annual Hallway Art Sale opens in the art
wing of the Allison Fine Arts Building.
The sale continues 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and Saturday,
Dec. 1 and 2; and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3.
A commission on all sales will go toward a scholarship fund for art students.

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Opening tea

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Elton John sells clothing items to raise money for AIDS research

LONDON — A luminous green panther-style suit, leopard print jackets, pop star regalia in electric blue — Elton John is clearing out his closets to raise money to fight AIDS.

John, who rocks in a fashion class all his own, shared his unique threads and style at an elaborate rummage sale Wednesday.

Fans lined up all day outside the central London shop where the star was selling off 15,000 items of clothing and accessories.

Sir Elton snipped a pink ribbon to open the sale and the fans poured in to prowl among racks packed with colorful designer wear and tables piled with sweaters, shirts and shoes.

Organizers said Elton John's AIDS Foundation raised more than \$140,000 in the first four hours. The sale is to continue for several days, until everything is sold.

The star's last clothes sale, in 1997, raised \$500,000 in five days.

In addition to high-priced designer wear, such as Gianni Versace's luminous panther suit — now \$2,150 — and a \$3,750 1986 blue and purple stage costume, many more affordable items were on sale. Hundreds of pairs of shoes were priced about \$45 each, shirts started at \$20 and baseball caps at \$7.

The fans were thrilled to have such personal mementoes. William Carbury, a 43-year-old college receptionist, said he had "gone a bit mad" at the sale. "I only had a budget of \$215 but I ended up spending \$500" on two pairs of shoes, some shirts and a belt.

"I can't wait to try it all on," he said.

Sharon Kalinoski, from Chicago, 36-year-old head of John's American fan club, said she's spent more than \$1,430 and that she'd be back again today for more.

"I bought over 60 items, some of which I will keep and some of which I will give to fans back in the U.S.," she said.

Then there were the folks who just admired Elton's style.

"I'm not really a fan of Elton John but I do like his clothes," said London window cleaner Desmond Cooley, who spent \$300 on sweaters and shoes.

"I'm going on holiday tomorrow to the Far East so I can pretend I am a millionaire with all my Versace gear."

NEW YORK — Even in the afterlife, Mario Puzo is worth big money.

ReganBooks has paid in the high six figures for an unfinished historical novel by the author of "The Godfather," the book's publisher said Wednesday.

Puzo, who died in 1999 at age 78, had worked for years on a novel about the ruthless Borgia family that reigned in Italy during the Renaissance. The manuscript will be completed by his longtime companion and assistant, Carol Gino.

The book, currently untitled, is expected to come out in the fall of 2001.

A two-time Oscar winner, Puzo wrote several novels and assorted Hollywood screenplays. "Omerta," the third book of his Mafia trilogy, was published posthumously last summer.

LOS ANGELES — Jack Lemmon has won an award named after the actor he considers the best ever.

Lemmon received the 12th annual Spencer Tracy Award for dramatic achievement during ceremonies Tuesday at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Lemmon, a two-time Oscar winner, said he got to meet his idol when Tracy was shooting "The Last Hurrah."

"He listened phenomenally with his eyes, face and body movements," Lemmon, 75, said. "He was trying to glean the meaning within the person."

Lemmon's films include "Some Like it Hot," "The Odd Couple," "Out of Towners" and "Grumpy Old Men."

HARRISON, N.J. — A local cop pounded a new beat on the set of "The Sopranos."

During tryouts for walk-on roles for the HBO series in July,

Lt. Charles Trucillo helped control the traffic that nearly paralyzed the city. He ended up being one of just six people chosen from among 13,000 aspiring actors and actresses.

On Tuesday, he was involved in scenes filmed at a local pizzeria, where he played a police officer.

"He was very good, better than some of the actors we've had on the show," said Jason Minter, assistant location director for

the show. "He didn't flub any of his lines."

The show also filmed at the high school, where actor Robert Iler, portraying Anthony Soprano Jr., the teen-age son of the crime family boss, did some scenes in a swimming pool.

Compiled from Reporter-Telegram news service.

TV TONIGHT

THURSDAY EVENING

NOVEMBER 30, 2000

For Complete Information
Please Check Movie Listings

	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
(3) KMD	2 3 8	News 6:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	PrimeTime Thursday	PrimeTime Thursday	News 10:00	News 10:30	News 11:00	News 11:30
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(7) KQSA	7 7 7	News 6:00	News 6:30	News 7:00	News 7:30	News 8:00	News 8:30	News 9:00	News 9:30	News 10:00	News 10:30	News 11:00
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(25) CNN	28 22	News 6:00	News 6:30	News 7:00	News 7:30	News 8:00	News 8:30	News 9:00	News 9:30	News 10:00	News 10:30	News 11:00
(26) ESPN	29 30	News 6:00	News 6:30	News 7:00	News 7:30	News 8:00	News 8:30	News 9:00	News 9:30	News 10:00	News 10:30	News 11:00
(27) USA	30 30	News 6:00	News 6:30	News 7:00	News 7:30	News 8:00	News 8:30	News 9:00	News 9:30	News 10:00	News 10:30	News 11:00
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 30, 2000:

You intuitively say the right words, and others respond. Though you frequently are politically correct, you might not be as clear as you need to be. The good news is that others come forward to express concerns. Popularity soars, and those of you who are single might need to work to maintain that status. If you are attached, your relationship benefits from your communication and new-found romanticism. A partner proves to be unusually cheery and optimistic this year. AQUARIUS adores you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You're inspired, if not directed. Tap into your imagination, but also use other sources. You find that, in general, you have a lot of creativity and dynamic energy. Work in a group rather than one-on-one. Your words draw spectacular reactions. Tonight: Where the gang is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Keep looking for answers rather than pushing to have things your way. With creativity and innovative thinking, you come up with mutually acceptable solutions. Brainstorm with others. Ultimately, you come up with a money-making idea. Try it out on another. Tonight: Work late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Relate one-on-one with others. You care a lot about someone at a distance. Don't sit on your feelings. Don't daydream about this person; reach out for him instead. Nothing is written in stone, so be open to a special opportunity or person. Tonight: Do something totally different.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Work with someone one-on-one. Your ability to understand another comes out with clarity. Determine what you want from another, especially because he seems willing but could be vague or diffuse energy in different directions. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Listen. Reach out and ask questions. Reveal more of what you need. You will find that your ability to zero in on works. You're especially strong when working in groups or with many people. Others look to you for leadership. Let your effervescent personality come out. Tonight: Be a socialite.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You want to accomplish a lot at work. Deal with work and health matters head-on. You make waves, as well as an enormous difference. Your sense of caring emerges. You care about what you do. Others are impressed. Consider working more from home, if possible. Tonight: Stroll on home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Be more playful with those you love. Sometimes you get too sucked into the moment and into your problems. Allow your kiddie side to come out. You enjoy yourself wherever you are. Take the time to study what you need to do to make your life even better. Tonight: OK, be a flirt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Make family a high priority — not that you don't, anyway. Presently, another makes an effort toward you. Think about the possibilities that surround your domestic

Share A Holiday Tradition with CBS 7

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Broadcast LIVE!!

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6:30pm**

Following CBS7 News
At 5:00 & 6:00
Live From McKinney Park

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By Oscar Le
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Evidence

Bufs' Hull aims for 2,000-yard season, more playoff victories

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

On Saturday afternoon, Stanton running back Jeremy Hull will have a chance at making history.

With 16 yards against Hamlin in the Class 2A Small School regional playoff game at Colorado City's Wolfe Stadium, Hull will hit the 2,000-yard mark for the season, making him the first Stanton rusher to do so in a single season.

That's a goal Hull set at the beginning of the year and one which he and his head coach Mark Cotton thought the senior would have a legitimate shot to accomplish.

"I really expected this type of year from him this season," Cotton said. "I felt we would be real solid on the offensive line."

The last 2,000-yard rusher Cotton was even associated with was when he was still coaching in Hamlin in the mid 1980s.

Hull already has the top two single-season rushing marks at Stanton with 1,984 this season and 1,856 last year. For his three-year varsity career, Hull comes into Saturday's contest with 4,910 rushing yards.

"I believe I could've gotten it last year if I had one more game," said Hull about the reaching the 2,000-yard rushing

mark. "I set that goal to start the season and I think it's exciting to achieve a goal that I had set."

In order for Hull to reach that mark, he's going to be coming up against a very aggressive Hamlin defense, which will no doubt try to keep a close eye on him. Hull feels that it should be a tough game against the Pied Pipers and said it's more important for him to get the win than the 2,000 yards.

"The win is definitely more important," Hull said. "Because even if I don't get to 2,000 yards this week, we'll be playing next week and I'll get another chance to try and get it."

Please see HULL/2C



Stanton tailback Jeremy Hull needs only 16 yards rushing on Saturday against Hamlin to crack the 2,000-yard barrier for the season. He said he'd like to reach that personal goal, but winning is more important.

REBELS' ROAD TRIP TO TEXAS STADIUM

Stop for Fred

Lee lineman halts buses, quarterbacks

By Terry Williamson
Sports Editor

You can bet when the Lee Rebels leave by bus for the Class 5A Big School region battle with Duncanville at Texas Stadium, defensive lineman Fred Threweatt will be on it.

Two years ago, Threweatt missed the team bus for a trip to Texas Stadium. He says it will never happen again.

"When I was a sophomore, my grandmother drove me to the (Lee) field house to catch the bus for Texas Stadium where we were going to play South Grand Prairie," Threweatt remembers. "I got confused about when we were supposed to be there, but when we drove up the bus was already gone."

At that time, Threweatt was a member of the Lee junior varsity. He wasn't going to play in the game anyway, but he wasn't about to miss that trip.

"There was this big controversy that year about a Lee jinx at Texas Stadium," he says. "I had to see that game and it would be my first time to be in a Dallas Cowboys locker room. I couldn't miss it."

"We got my grandmother a full tank of gas and drove as fast as we could to catch the bus. While we were driving, I made this sign that I could show out the window."

Lee coach John Parchman said, "We were somewhere around Cisco and I looked out the window and there was the sign being held out the window that read, 'Stop for Fred.' We stopped and Fred got on the bus."

Threweatt said, "I took a lot of ribbing about that sign from my teammates, but I wasn't about to miss that game."

Lee went on to beat South Grand Prairie that weekend, ending its Texas Stadium jinx. That was the first win ever at Texas Stadium for the Rebels. They went on to capture the Class 5A Small School state crown that same year, winning the title at — where else? — Texas Stadium.

"Fred wasn't even going to play in that game," says Lee defensive line coach Randy Josey, "but

Please see THREWEATT/2C



At 6-foot-4 and 300 pounds, Midland Lee defensive tackle Fred Threweatt is an imposing sight for opponents' offensive players. He'll be a challenge for Duncanville's offense on Saturday at Texas Stadium in Irving — assuming he catches the Rebels' team bus.

Chargers boast two all-staters

Staff Report

Trinity's Dustin Truitt and Daniel Valles were first-team selections to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-State Class 3A football team.

The two standouts contributed all three first-team selections for the Chargers, who finished their first 11-man season with a 9-3 record and an appearance in the TAPPS 3A semifinals.

Truitt, a senior, was one of three Class 3A players to be named to both the first-team offense and first-team defense, earning a nod at tight end and linebacker. Scott Dale of Arlington Grace Prep and Brandon Batten of Galveston O'Connell were also first-teamers at two positions.

Daniel Valles, a senior, was a first-team offensive lineman.

All totaled, Trinity's three first-team selections placed the Chargers behind Katy Faith West, Galveston O'Connell and Arlington Grace Prep. All three teams led TAPPS 3A with five selections each. Katy Faith West was the team which defeated Trinity in the semifinals and went on to win the state championship last weekend.

Other Chargers to earn all-state mention were seniors Jeessoung Yi and Nathan Pirtle. Both were honored as second-team performers on the offensive line and in the offensive backfield, respectively.

Oddly, Trinity junior Clint Adcox was an

Please see TAPPS/8C



Valles



Truitt

Injury forces Fricke into media glare

By Stephen Hawkins

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Ben Fricke doesn't enjoy being the center of attention in the Dallas Cowboys locker room.

Instead of answering questions from the reporters surrounding his locker, Fricke would prefer to be the center on the field.

"The extra attention, I'd just as soon play the game," Fricke said Wednesday. "I really don't come here to talk to y'all. When I get up in the morning, I don't think about what I'm going to say. I just get ready to practice and play on Sunday."

But it's hard for Fricke to avoid attention these days. The 6-foot, 295-pound center has been forced into a starting role because of a likely season-ending injury to former All-Pro Mark Stepnoski, a 12-year veteran who sprained his knee Nov. 19 at Baltimore.

Fricke, a second-year pro who earned his shot with the Cowboys after playing in NFL Europe, got his first start Thanksgiving Day against Minnesota. Next up is Sunday's game at Tampa Bay, one of the league's best defenses.

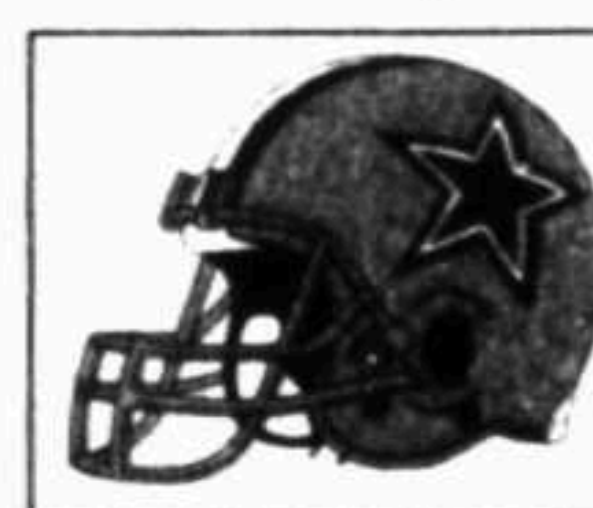
The young center knows he could be a marked man. Warren Sapp, Tampa Bay's All-Pro defensive lineman, said Wednesday that he planned to line up directly opposite Fricke on Sunday.

"I know if I was their defensive coordinator, I'd at least test the water there to see how solid it is, but my job is to be prepared for those things," Fricke said. "It's just being prepared throughout the week to handle those kind of situations."

Fricke got high marks for his performance in his first start, a 27-15 loss to the Vikings. Fellow lineman Jorge Diaz said film of the game proved that Fricke played well.

"He may be a little undersized, but he played like a giant. He played hard and he played well," Diaz

Please see DALLAS/2C



Cuban revives Mavs with cash, energy

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Roaming the upper deck of Reunion Arena, safely out of the earshot of officials, Mark Cuban had more than the usual reason to savor the



Dallas Mavericks' 10th win of the season.

Dallas' first win after Cuban arranged to buy the team last season also was No. 10. Those Mavericks needed 33 games to get there. This time, it took 15.

"It's huge," Cuban said, smiling wide after a 107-93 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night. "Huge."

While All-Star Michael Finley and rising star Dirk Nowitzki are major reasons for the second-best start in franchise history, Cuban also has been a driving force.

A billionaire by age 40, the Internet wiz has moved just as quickly to revive the NBA's worst team of the 1990s, injecting massive doses of energy, enthusiasm and cash since taking over in January.

Evidence of his changes surround-



Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban yells to his players during a game last season. A billionaire by age 40, the Internet wiz has revived the NBA's worst team of the 1990s, injecting massive doses of energy, enthusiasm and cash since taking over in January.

ed him in a corner of the Mavericks' locker room.

He stood next to a postgame buffet featuring chicken fajitas and fresh fruit, something common in baseball

clubs, which players received this week.

On his chest was the first sweater from a new line of clothing the team is about to launch. The athletic and casual gear will feature a new electric-blue-white-and-black logo that's a radical departure from the giant powder-blue M wearing a cowboy hat.

"We're going to be the first NBA team to actually get a license to resell NBA merchandise," Cuban said. "It's stuff we want people to be able to wear to a game, stuff you can wear to school, wear to work."

The extra income will help Cuban pay the \$45,000 in fines he's racked up for complaining about officials. He was punished three times in eight days and has since promised to clean up his act.

After his first two outbursts, Cuban sent himself home from a road trip. He got in trouble again after his first game back, so for the last two games he's banished himself to the cheap seats.

Dallas is 5-0 this season in games without Cuban in his usual seat behind the bench. The Mavs were 2-0 without him there last season. He laughs off the streak as a coincidence.

"If I have to go sit in Siberia for us

Please see CUBAN/8C

'Bama has trouble luring high-profile coaches like Davis

By John Zenor
AP Sports Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama is struggling to find a football coach, with Tommy Bowden, Frank Beamer and Butch Davis passing on what was once one of the country's top jobs.

Athletic director Mal Moore is prepared to pay about \$1 million a year but has had little success getting big-name coaches to interview for the job.

Mike DuBose resigned under pressure Nov. 1 after a homecoming loss to Central Florida. The Crimson Tide finished the season 3-8, their worst record since 1957.

On Wednesday, Miami's Davis said he was staying put. He has been offered a five-year contract extension that would pay about \$1.3 million annually.

"I listened to what he had to say and then I politely told him Mr. Moore I'm flattered, Alabama has a rich tradition and I'm sure it's a good job, but I'm not interested in interviewing," Davis said.

On Monday, it was Virginia Tech's Beamer who re-upped for more than \$1 million, hours after Moore received permission from Hokies AD Jim Weaver to speak to the coach.

Two weeks ago, it was Clemson's Bowden getting the big raise. And Mississippi State's Jackie Sherrill, an Alabama alum?

"I can end any speculation real quick," Sherrill said after DuBose's ouster was announced Nov. 1. "It's not even an issue."

Moore was out of town and not available for comment on Wednesday. He has said he had a list of five candidates, including Beamer and Davis, but has not disclosed any other names.

Further muddying the search was this week's visit by NCAA investigators, who are interviewing DuBose and three of his assistants as well as several players. Plus, Alabama is seeking its fifth head coach since Bear Bryant retired after the 1982 season.

"At one time, there were 4-5 programs that were what people considered premier programs in the country," said Bob Bockrath, who was the Tide's athletic director when DuBose was hired in 1996. "That isn't the case anymore."

"Times have changed. If you look at who's been in the Top 10 the last 10 years, there's a bunch of new names in there."

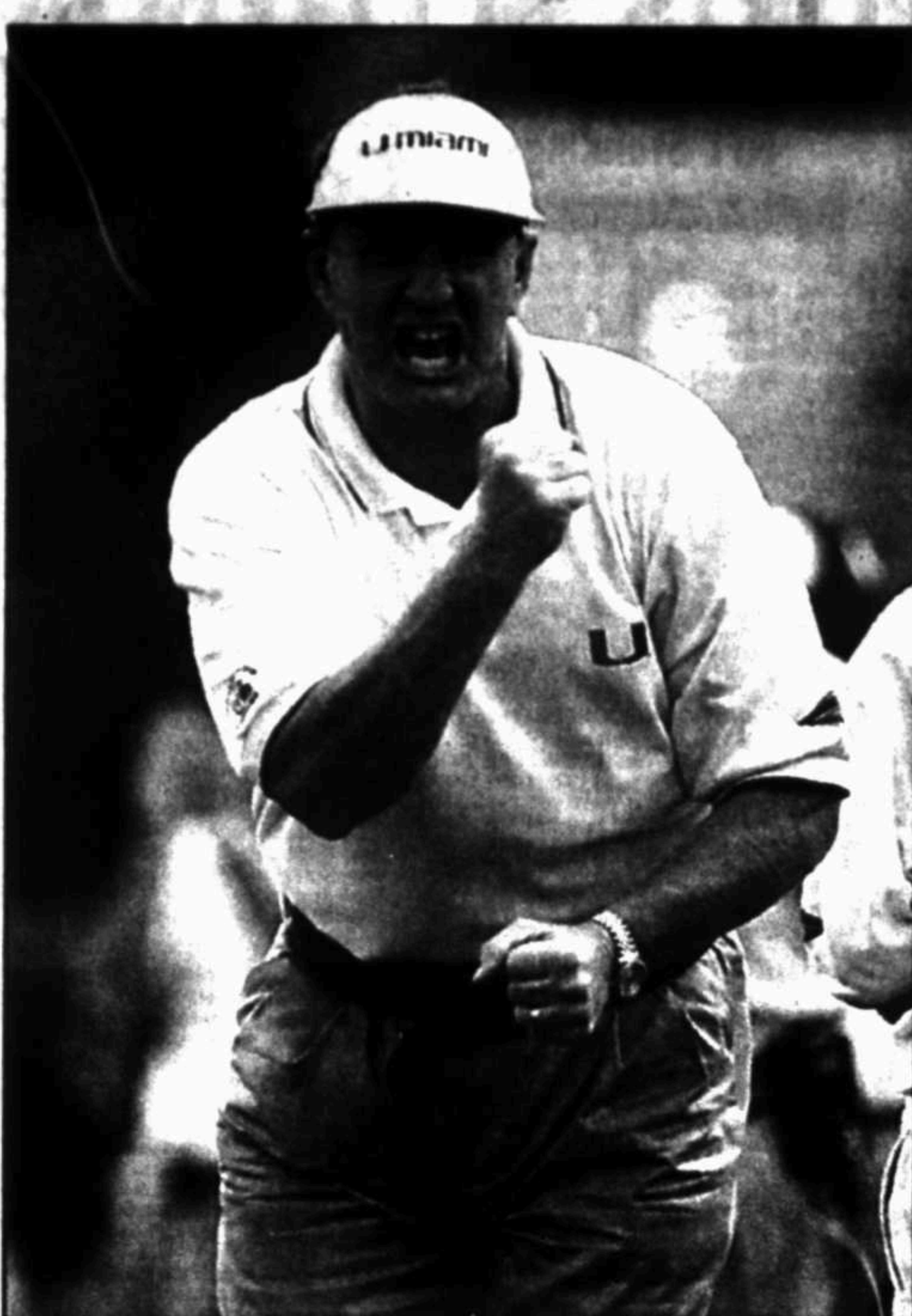
Bockrath isn't sure the expectations of Tide faithful have changed with the times.

"I just think it's one of those regional things," said Bockrath, fired last year and now AD at Yavapai College in Prescott, Ariz.

"They don't quite accept or understand there are other really good programs out there. Not to put down the Alabama program, but there are a bunch of others who have risen to the same level Alabama was at 10 or 15 years ago."

"I think coaches are maybe a little wary of places that have great expectations that some might view as somewhat unrealistic."

Bockrath wanted to pursue such names as Beamer and Rick



Miami head coach Butch Davis celebrates a touchdown by his team against Florida State during October. Davis announced on Tuesday that he would stay at Miami, spurning suitors such as Alabama.

Neuheisel but said he received "thousands" of e-mails, faxes and letters urging him to elevate Tide assistant DuBose to the top job in 1996.

Former Alabama coach Bill Curry thinks behind-the-scenes politics make it more likely that someone with ties to Alabama would be more likely to flourish as head coach.

"The biggest thing for me was to know who was in our corner

and who was not," said Curry, an ESPN analyst who coached the Tide from 1987-89 and was regarded as an outsider by some Alabama fans. "That's why I believe deep in my heart, if at all possible, they need to get an Alabama guy."

"That way, he doesn't have to worry about that."

He said the Alabama job remains attractive. "It's just more complicated."

More Sports/8C

Franchione claims no other schools have talked to him

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Texas Christian athletic director Eric Hyman says he could retire comfortably if he had a dollar for every rumor he has heard about his football coach.

Dennis Franchione's name has been mentioned in some way just about every time the list of college football coaching vacancies grows.

"This is a business of rumors," Hyman said Wednesday. "It has gotten to be absurd."

Only one school has contacted TCU about talking to Franchione. But even Missouri athletic director Mike Alden, a close friend of the coach, has said it is unlikely that Franchione would replace fired Tigers coach Larry Smith.

TCU, meanwhile, is discussing a new contract for Franchione, who has five years left on a deal negotiated after the 1998 season.

Franchione's name has also surfaced in relation to openings at Arizona State, Alabama, USC and Maryland. None of those schools, however, had contacted

Franchione or Hyman about their jobs Wednesday.

While there has been no official contact, there is no doubt that other schools would be interested in Franchione.

The Horned Frogs were 1-10 in 1997, the season before Franchione was hired. They have just completed their third straight winning season since, and are ranked 13th nationally as they prepare to play Southern Mississippi in the Mobile Alabama Bowl on Dec. 20. They have already won two bowl games under Franchione.

Franchione and Hyman both said there have been discussions about a new contract at TCU. They said there is no deadline.

"We don't have a specific set (to finalize the deal). The discussions are just ongoing," Hyman said.

The new proposal reportedly includes a substantial raise to \$1 million per year (only 14 college coaches now make \$1 million a year) and extends the contract for two more years, through 2007.

Longhorns accept Holiday invitation

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Holiday Bowl has hooked the Texas Longhorns for its game Dec. 29.

Or, as Texas coach Mack Brown sees it, the 'Horns hooked the Holiday Bowl.

"I feel the Holiday Bowl is really excited about this team, but they can't be more excited about us than we are about going," Brown said after the Longhorns accepted the Holiday Bowl's invitation Wednesday.

The No. 12 Longhorns (9-2) have a lot to look forward to on their first trip to San Diego, which happens to be the hometown of Ricky Williams, who won the Heisman Trophy at Texas in 1998.

The Longhorns wanted to play in this game not only for the chance to play a top 10 team from the Pacific-10 Conference and hopefully finish in the top 10 themselves, but also for recruiting exposure in Southern California.

"They really, really want to be here," Holiday Bowl executive director John Reid said.

The Holiday Bowl would like to bring in No. 5 Oregon State (10-1), but the Beavers remain in

the Bowl Championship Series picture. If the Beavers receive an invitation to a BCS game on Sunday, the Holiday Bowl will invite No. 9 Oregon (9-2).

Regardless of the opponent, Brown got a head start on scouting.

"I got the Oregon-Oregon State film out today and started watching it," he said during a conference call. "I figured that's about all we can do between now and Sunday."

The Longhorns are on a six-game winning streak going into their third straight bowl game under Brown, and their 40th overall.

"We are so excited about this trip because I think it fits our year," Brown said. "The opponent fits our need to play somebody really good in the end to continue to get better because we've talked about fighting to get in the top 10 the last three years."

Texas is coming off a 43-17 win over Texas A&M in which sophomore quarterback Chris Simms, the son of former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, had a breakout game with 383 yards passing and three touchdowns.

Maryland, Buffalo hire new coaches

Associated Press

Ralph Friedgen was hired as head coach at Maryland on Wednesday after 29 years as an assistant and Jim Hofher took the job at Buffalo after three years as a Syracuse assistant.

Also Wednesday, Miami coach Butch Davis said he's staying with the Hurricanes, ruling out the Alabama job as well as any other college or pro coaching position.

"I'm not going to any other job," said Davis, 50-20 in six seasons with the Hurricanes. "I took this job with the idea that this would be the last coaching job that I would take and nothing has changed today, in the last 48 hours or the last six years."

Friedgen, meanwhile, is leaving Georgia Tech to return to his alma mater and the scene of his first coaching job. He signed a six-year, \$175,000 a year contract.

"I waited all my life for this opportunity, and I'm not going to let anybody down," said Friedgen, who was an assistant at several colleges and with the San Diego Chargers.

Friedgen, Tech's offensive coordinator, takes over a long-suffering program that hasn't produced a winning record since 1995 or earned a bowl bid since 1990. He replaces Ron Vanderlinden, who was fired Nov. 19 after a lopsided loss to Georgia Tech concluded his fourth straight losing season. Gelbaugh dur-

ing his five-year run.

Hofher, the quarterbacks coach at Syracuse, was hired to replace Craig Cirbus at Buffalo, which finished 2-9 this season. Hofher was the coach at Cornell from 1990-97, where his

College Football

Davis, just days after leading Miami (10-1) to its ninth consecutive win and its first Big East title in four years, met with Houston Texans owner Bob McNair and talked to Alabama athletic director Mal Moore about their respective coaching vacancies.

But Davis is staying at Miami, where he has been offered a five-year contract extension worth about \$1.3 million annually. Davis, 49, is in his fourth year of a seven-year deal that pays him about \$900,000 annually.

Meanwhile, Hurricanes defensive coordinator Greg Schiano was considering whether to take the Rutgers job.

"I'm going to hold off on anything right now," Schiano said Wednesday. "But if or when there is anything big to announce, I'll (say) it then. Note the words, if or when."

Also, Louisville coach John L. Smith signed an eight-year contract to stay with the Cardinals, who are 9-2 and set to play in the Liberty Bowl.

In bowl news: South Carolina will play in the Outback or Peach bowl, depending on who wins the SEC title game between Florida and Auburn. If the Gators win, the Gamecocks will play Ohio State in the Outback; if the Tigers win, South Carolina heads to the Peach against Georgia Tech.

McCown leaving SMU after starting 9 games

DALLAS — Junior quarterback Josh McCown is leaving SMU at the end of the fall semester after starting nine games this season, coach Mike Cavan said Wednesday.

McCown started the first six games before being replaced for three games by sophomore Dave Page. McCown then started the final three games for the Mustangs (3-9).

"Josh has been a real team player," Cavan said. "This is Josh's decision and we wish him the best wherever he ends up. I hope he has a great senior season."

Cavan didn't elaborate or give any indication as to where McCown might be headed when he transfers.

McCown completed 169 of 331 passes for 1,969 yards and nine touchdowns this season. He also threw 16 interceptions, the fifth-highest total in SMU history.

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750 ml.

PINKIE'S
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Hot & Spicy Crab & Crawfish Dip

- 1/2 cup red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon crushed garlic
- 1 (10-ounce) jar Rotel pico de gallo
- 1 pound flake crabmeat
- 4 tablespoons green Tabasco
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pound crawfish tails
- salt and pepper to taste

Sauté peppers, onions and garlic in large saucepan. Place crab and crawfish in a food processor for 1 minute. Add crab and crawfish to saucepan and sauté for 5 minutes. Add milk to mixture and stir in cream cheese. Stir until cheese is smooth and melted. Stir in pico de gallo, Tabasco and garlic powder, and heat for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and serve hot or cold with crackers. Makes 16 servings.

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Tiziano Chianti
Classic Italian Wine
Light, dry red
Bargain priced for Holiday entertaining
Perfect with our Holiday recipe
\$5.97
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Seagram's 7-Crown Whiskey \$16.77	Nottage Hill Wines Cabernet/Shiraz, Chardonnay, Merlot & Shiraz \$6.97	Natural Light Sulfas 24-12oz. Cans Beer \$9.97	Dry Creek Chardonnay Sonoma, California \$9.97	Canadian Mist Whisky \$13.77
Scoreby Scotch \$18.77	Mogen David Wines Concord & Blackberry \$4.97	Smirnoff Ice 8-Packs Ready-to-Drink Cocktails \$5.77	Woodbridge Wines Cabernet, Chardonnay & Merlot \$11.77	Tequila Rose Strawberry & Cream Liqueur \$16.77
Captain Morgan Rum Spiced Rum \$18.97	Sutter Home Wine White Zinfandel \$3.77	Marlboro and Virginia Slims \$22.97	Kondall-Jackson Sauvignon Blanc California Wine \$8.77	Absolut Vodka \$27.97

Sale prices good thru Saturday, December 2nd

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BUSINESS BRIEFING

OIL PRICES	
Wednesday	\$34.63
Previous	\$34.22

POSTED	
Wednesday	\$31.75
Previous	\$31.25

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday	\$6.181
Previous	\$6.016

Blue chips rise

NEW YORK (AP) — While a welcome assessment of the nation's economic health sent blue chip stocks rising Wednesday, investors again punished technology issues for their bleak earnings prospects.

A late earnings warning from computer maker Gateway sent tech prices diving even further in after-hours trading. That decline was expected to continue Thursday, repeating a pattern that has become familiar in recent months as a series of high-profile and premium-priced computer and Internet companies announced disheartening results.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 121.53 to 10,629.11, but the Nasdaq composite index fell 28.05 to 2,706.93. The Nasdaq's decline gave it yet another new low for this year.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 5.82 to 1,341.91.

Futures recouped

NEW YORK (Dow Jones News) — The energy complex at the New York Mercantile Exchange rose on Wednesday, a day after tumbling on forecasts of warmer-than-expected weather.

Crude, heating oil and gasoline futures recouped some of the losses posted on Tuesday, as traders shrugged off mildly bearish inventory data released by the American Petroleum Institute and the Department of Energy.

Gasoline futures, which had lost heavy ground Tuesday, were the day's biggest gainers, with the December contract gaining 2.77 cents to close at 91 cents a gallon.

Heating oil futures managed to notch up small gains after spending most of the session in negative territory.

The December heating oil contract, which had lost more than 6 cents a gallon on Tuesday, rose .81 cent to close at \$1.035 a gallon.

December products expire Thursday.

January crude futures closed with a gain of 41 cents at \$34.63, recouping about half of Tuesday's losses. In London, Brent crude from the North Sea gained 49 cents to \$32.68 per barrel.

January natural gas, a popular alternative to heating oil, fell 2.6 cents to \$6.18 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Dollar falls

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar was mostly lower against other major currencies in European trading Wednesday. Gold was mixed.

The euro was quoted at 85.69 cents in late European trading, slightly up from 85.60 cents Tuesday. Later, in midday trading in New York, the euro climbed higher against the dollar and traded at 85.87 cents.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Tuesday, included 111.15 Japanese yen, up from 110.16; 1.7580 Swiss francs, down from 1.7626; 1.5400 Canadian dollars, up from 1.5364.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.4203, up from \$1.4187. In midday trading in New York, the dollar bought 111.14 yen, and the pound was worth \$1.4230.

Based on euro rates, the dollar is worth 2.2814 German marks, down from 2.2840; 7.6514 French francs, down from 7.6604; 2.5705 Dutch guilders, down from 2.5735; 2,258.57 Italian lire, down from 2,261.21.

Gold closed in London at \$268.60 bid per troy ounce, down from \$269.30 on Tuesday. In Zurich the bid price was \$268.75, up from \$268.35. In Hong Kong, gold closed up 30 cents at \$265.95 an ounce on Wednesday.

Agency wants uniform water rate

By Natalie Gott
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A state agency on Wednesday took the first step in a lengthy process to determine whether a large water and sewer company can implement a statewide rate for its customers.

Some water companies across the state have set uniform rates, but their systems have been located in the same regions. Houston-based AquaSource has customers across the state, varying greatly from area to area.

About 80 people attended a preliminary hearing conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings on whether AquaSource can raise rates. Many were customers protesting the rate change.

"People are having to choose between feeding their kids and using water," said Elaine Scott of Hockley.

AquaSource, which has 35,000 customers in 45 Texas counties, implemented the rate change in July, increasing the monthly water and sewer bill for people who use about 7,000 gallons to \$73.61 — an increase of about 29 percent, although some customers have seen their bills increase 200 percent.

Another planned rate increase in July 2001 would raise average monthly bills to about \$81.47.

Gene Yeargin, who is representing about 300 residents in the Redwood Estates neighborhoods of Houston, said people near him have seen their water and sewer rates go from a minimum of about \$35 a month to between \$72 and \$125.

"That's a huge jump," Yeargin said. "I have senior citizens in my neighborhood who have no running water right now."

AquaSource did not immediately return telephone calls to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, which will make the ultimate decision on whether the rate increase will stand, allows water companies to disconnect services for customers who have not paid their bills. There are no exceptions for people on fixed incomes.

If the TNRCC blocks AquaSource from charging the new rate, AquaSource will refund its customers, since they already are paying the higher rate.

"This is one of those troubling instances of a few private interests being able to control our water issues," said Doug Cavazos, president of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Kerr County Inc. "What they are asking for is not a simple rate change. They are going to set a precedent."

The TNRCC has received more than 4,000 protests

stemming from the rate increase. An attorney for AquaSource told Judge William Newchurch of the State Office of Administrative Hearings that of the 16 cities that AquaSource requested a rate increase in, four have said they will appeal. Austin approved the rate, and AquaSource has not heard from the others.

Newchurch told the people at the meeting Wednesday that he wanted to combine the groups of people protesting the rate change into about 10 parties in the case.

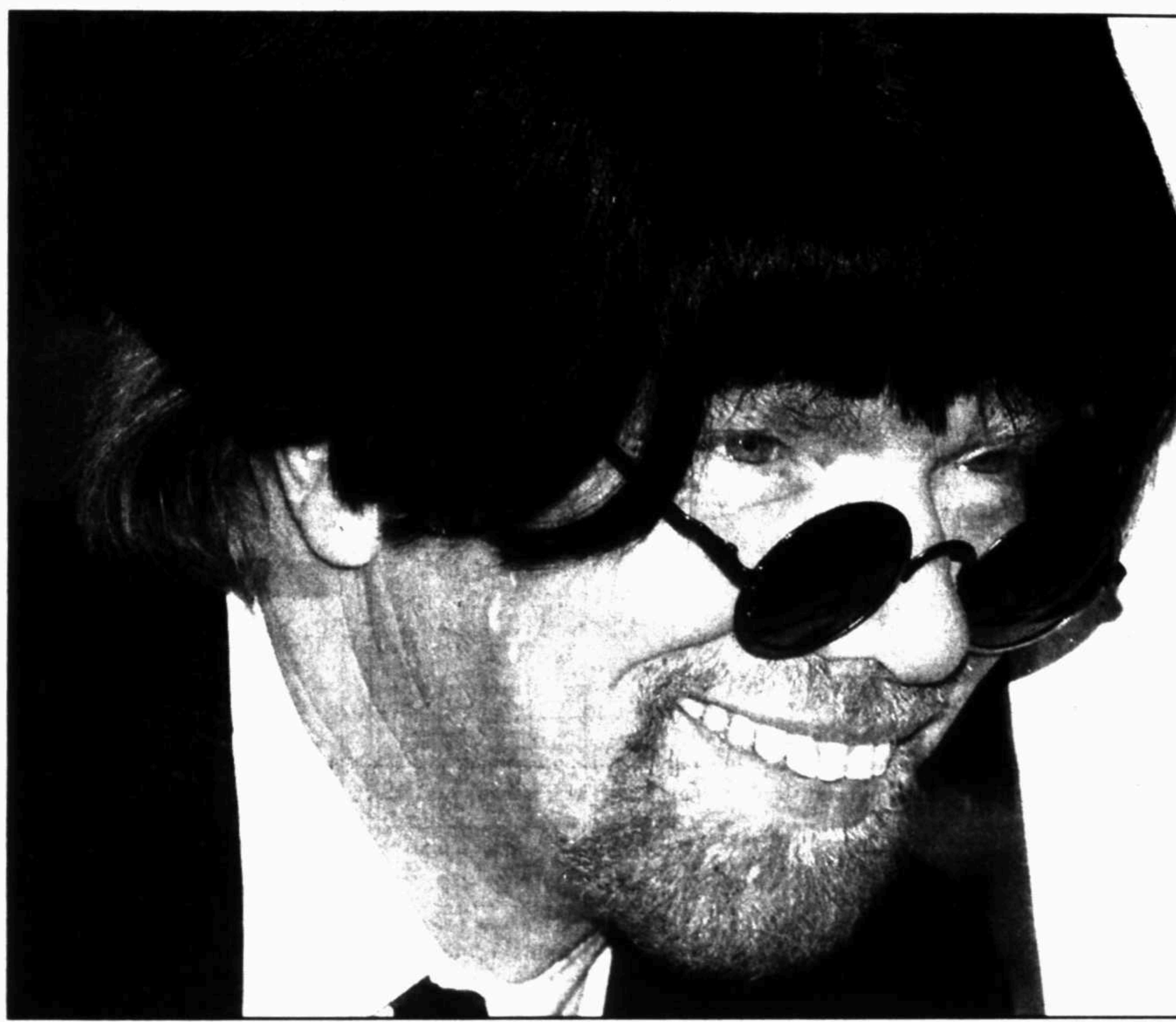
Then, those groups and AquaSource will present their cause using evidence and witnesses, much like a trial, if no settlement is reached. The State Office of Administrative Hearings will oversee the trial and make a recommendation to the three commissioners at the TNRCC, which will have the final say on whether or not the rate will be implemented.

AquaSource was established as a subsidiary of Pennsylvania-based DQE in 1997 to purchase water and wastewater utilities and companies.

On the Net:

AquaSource: <http://www.aquasource.com>
TNRCC: <http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us>
State Office of Administrative Hearings: <http://www.soah.state.tx.us/>

SHAKE IT UP, BABY



AP Photo
Virgin Atlantic chairman Richard Branson sports a Beatles wig and 60's-era "granny" glasses in New York Tuesday during the premier of the re-release of "A Hard Day's Night." The general release of the 1964 Beatles movie by Miramax begins Friday. Branson was at the premier to promote his airline's new "Upper Class" service.

American, United airlines will add same-day package service

DALLAS (AP) — United and American airlines said Wednesday they will offer expanded same-day package delivery service using technology from upstart NextJet Inc.

United and American both offer cargo delivery for pickup at airports, but the deal with NextJet would allow them to offer door-to-door service using NextJet's network of about 300 local ground couriers.

Both airlines will be able to take an equity stake in NextJet, although officials declined to say how much, or to disclose other financial terms.

Privately-held NextJet, founded in February 1999, estimated that the four-year deal could bring it \$100 million in

revenue.

The company spent more than a year developing software to churn through airline schedules before beginning service in July, and it handles about 150 shipments a day, a spokeswoman said.

Executives were thrilled over the deal with United and American.

"We've got the top two airlines in the world to standardize their delivery service on the NextJet platform and become a source of revenue for NextJet," said Steve O'Brien, a co-founder and co-chairman of the company.

O'Brien said likely customers for the service would include high tech, aerospace, medical products and manufac-

turing companies that need to move goods around the country on a same-day basis.

Analysts said the airlines and Dallas-based NextJet would find demand for the service. But they questioned whether it would pose a threat to other couriers who charge far less for overnight delivery or slower same-day service.

United, for example, plans to charge a basic rate of \$159 for a package up to 70 pounds, spokesman David Brathwaite said.

"It's a lot to pay," said Daniel Hellberg, an analyst with UBS Warburg. "I just don't see it competing directly with UPS and Federal Express because of the big differential in price."

THE ECONOMIST

All indicators point to a bright future for Texas, U.S.

By M. Ray Perryman

When the new president of the United States finally takes office, he will inherit an economy fit for a king. Prosperity will be his to squander, not to strive toward. Whether the executive office, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Congress, gridlock in Washington, unabated technological growth or a confluence of forces can claim credit for the nation's unprecedented economic success, prosperity is the order of the day.

Why the optimism? I have just completed my economic outlook for the period 2000 through 2005. While a modest slowing is expected in a few industries (such as construction), the overall future of our economy looks bright. The Perryman Group forecasts continued expansion of both the U.S. and Texas economies over the near-term. Inflation will likely continue occurring at a manageable rate (as it has for the past decade). The traditional "key indicators" tell the story, characterizing the outlook



Perryman

for the nation over the next five years:

- Real personal income will reach \$9.01 trillion (in 96\$) by 2005, a projected growth rate of 3.14 percent per year.

- Employment is anticipated to grow by 1.39 percent on an annualized basis over the forecast horizon, reaching a level of 141.0 million in 2005.

- Population in the U.S. is forecast to reach 286.4 million in 2005, a 0.84 percent per annum rate of growth.

- The CPI, or Consumer Price Index, is expected to grow by 2.52 percent per year over the short term, while the PPI, or Producer Price Index, is anticipated to rise by 1.56 percent annually over the same period.

- The Industrial Production Index should trend upward at a pace of about 3.44 percent per year over the forecast horizon, reaching 170.8 (1992=100) in 2005.

- Real GDP (gross domestic product or output) in 1996 U.S. dollars is projected to rise from \$9.33 trillion in 2000 to \$11.04 trillion by 2005. This amount represents a 3.42 percent annual growth rate over the period.

New developments in technology are anticipated to provide the underpinnings for continued growth across most production sectors.

The economic tale of the Texas economy from 2000 to 2005 mirrors the positive direction of the nation's good fortune. However, repeating a pattern surfacing in recent years, economic expansion in Texas will move along at a pace above that of most of the U.S. In 2005, the trade (including wholesale and retail activity), services (especially healthcare and business-related services), and FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate) sectors are expected to contribute the greatest amount of real gross product, or output, gains. In 2005, the services sector will likely continue as the dominant creator of jobs in the state, followed by employment in the trade and government sectors. Key indicators again tell the story:

- Population in the state is expected to reach approximately 22.26 million over the forecast horizon, a 1.73 percent compound annual growth rate.

- Real Gross Product (output) is expected to expand by a 3.96 percent annual rate of growth over the next five years (2000-2005).

- Real Personal Income (by place of residence) will likely grow at a 3.86 percent clip per year, reaching \$639.60 million (in 96\$) by 2005.

- Employment across the state projected to have a compound annual

growth rate of 2.19 percent through 2005.

- Inflation, as measured by growth in the Texas Consumer Price Index, is projected at a modest 2.64 percent annual rate during the forecast horizon.

- Retail Sales (reported nominally) will likely grow at an annual rate of 6.38 percent for the next five years.

As we continue on our path to economic growth, we will carefully monitor the issues of importance dominating the 77th Texas State Legislature. Among them will be the Sunset Review of the Texas Department of Economic Development, transportation concerns, education and job programs, electric utility deregulation implementation, tax incentives to encourage facility locations and rural development, Internet privacy, e-commerce, and environmental matters such as the Clean Air Act. We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, let's be thankful for our prosperity and look to a promising future!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

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Kings suffer costly injuries in close loss in San Antonio

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The Sacramento Kings might have lost more than a game Wednesday night.

Chris Webber injured his right wrist and Jason Williams left the game with a sprained right ankle as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Kings 82-79.

Webber, who missed two games earlier this season with a sprained ankle, had X-rays taken of his wrist, which he hurt in the second quarter. The severity of the injury is unknown.

Williams, who left the game with a minute left in the third quarter, said his injury is not serious.

"I just went up and tried to challenge a shot or something and I came down and stepped on (Scott) Pollard's foot," said Williams, who had six points and four rebounds. "It will be all right."

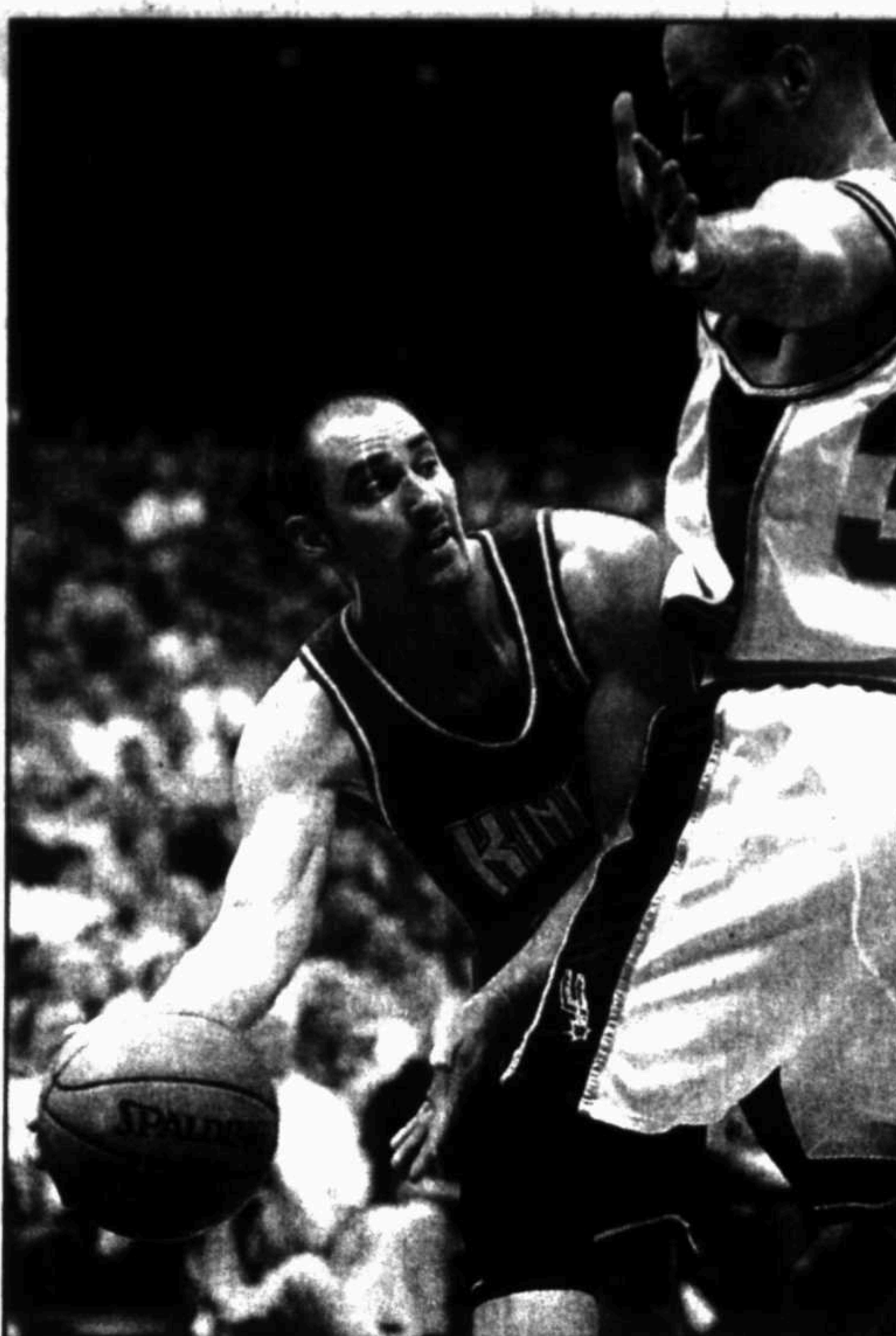
Tim Duncan had 22 points and 13 rebounds and made two key plays in the final minute for the Spurs, who improved to 8-0 at home.

"We gave up a lot of offensive rebounds, but the defense was able to sustain it," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who is four wins from tying Doug Moe's team record of 177 career victories. "The guys hung tough with the defensive energy to win."

With the Spurs leading 76-75, Duncan made an 18-footer from the top of the key over Webber with 46.7 seconds left. Duncan then came up with a loose ball after Webber had it knocked away by David Robinson on Sacramento's ensuing possession.

"On that last possession, we didn't run the play we wanted to," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "That sometimes happens when you have a lot of different guys on the court. We gave ourselves a chance to win it in the fourth."

The Kings still had a chance to tie the game thanks to several missed free throws by San Antonio, but Jon Barry's 30-footer was hurried by Duncan and missed everything and the Spurs ran out the clock. The Kings were 0-for-13 from 3-point range.



The Sacramento Kings' Jon Barry looks to pass around San Antonio's Danny Ferry Wednesday in the Alamodome in San Antonio. The Spurs won, 82-79.

More Sports/3D

CUBAN: Dallas owner enjoys watching game from the cheap seats

(From 1C)

to win, I will," he said. "I'll watch on STV — Siberia Sports Network."

Cuban plans to be in his usual spot Thursday night in Portland and probably will remain there for road games. Don't be surprised to see him back in the \$8 seats when Dallas returns home.

"I say this with all seriousness: I enjoy the game more upstairs," he said. "I was loving it. It's just a different atmosphere. Those people are coming just to have fun."

Cuban had so much fun he didn't even notice that the Mavs went 30 minutes, 54 seconds before going to the free-throw line. Had he been in his usual seat and seen the stat sheet, he likely would've made an issue of it.

"To me, it was just a nice normal game," Cuban said. "I think that's one of the reasons I enjoy it more. I was less concerned about the stats and just watching the game."

Cuban made his way to two sections per quarter, wandering up to people who were screaming his name or waving signs about him — and there are plenty of those at every game.

He didn't have a problem finding an empty seat, either. Although the Mavs announced a crowd of 16,016, several thousand tickets went unused, prob-

ably because Toronto star Vince Carter was home with a leg injury.

The no-shows are proof that, while Dallas is on the upswing, the Mavs alone aren't yet a big enough draw, certainly not on a Tuesday night.

"You can't expect it to turn around overnight," Cuban said. "More importantly, the people who come are having a blast. From there, it will build."

It's already building in the high-dollar area. While the Q rating was nothing like Los Angeles or New York, it wasn't bad for Dallas.

There was rapper Master P sitting next to Cuban's girlfriend. Dallas Cowboys receiver Wane McGarity was behind them. Rangers slugger Rafael Palmeiro was there. So were Dallas Stars Mike Modano, Grant Marshall and Darryl Sydor, and comedian Chris Tucker.

The capper was that TBS broadcast the game to a national audience, something that hadn't happened to the Mavericks since January 1998.

"This is going to be the year we get into the playoffs, so TV is going to be part of the scene," Cuban said. "Hopefully they'll ask us back on again."

LOCAL SPORTS

Miners make WAC first-team

A couple of standout high school football players from Midland, who also happen to be roommates at the University of Texas at El Paso, earned high honors on the football field.

D.J. Walker and Weldon Cooks, a pair of defensive backs for the Miners, were selected to the first-team of the The Sporting News' All-Western Athletic Conference honor squad.

Walker, who was also selected as a first-team player by the WAC coaches, recorded 62 tackles (44 solo) and led the

team with five interceptions. He also had a fumble recovery and a forced fumble. Walker stands 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds.

Cooks had 34 tackles (24 solos), one interception and led the team with 12 pass breakups. Cooks is 6-2, 185.

Both players are sophomores.

Mustangs football team. The parade will go around the Midland Christian School campus and end at the gymnasium where the pep rally will be held.

Tournament rescheduled

The Midland Tennis Club will hold the club championships for women's and men's doubles on Dec. 2-3 at the Midland College Tennis Center. This event was scheduled for Nov. 4-5 but had to be postponed. For more information, call the Midland College Tennis Center at 687-4046.

Mustangs to have parade

There will be a parade, pep rally and victory celebration next Wednesday at 2 p.m. for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A champion Midland Christian

Lady Raiders rip Southwest Texas

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Blame it on the lag.

After playing in the Paradise Jam tournament in the Virgin Islands over Thanksgiving weekend, the 10th-ranked Texas Tech Lady Raiders, coaching staff and school officials needed more than a dozen different flights to get everybody back home. Some arrived as late as midnight Monday.

That, coupled with finals, led to a 72-30 victory over Southwest Texas State on Wednesday night.

TAPPS: Trinity has 2 all-staters

(From 1C)

honorable mention pick on the offensive line, although he played running back.

Here is the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-State Class 3A football team:

First Team Offense
Line: Daniel Valles, Midland Trinity, 5-9, 175; Sr. Dale Scott, Arlington Grace Prep, 6-4, 280; Sr. Greg Fuhrmann, Tyler Gorman, 6-2, 210; Sr. Brandon Batten, Galveston O'Connell, 5-10, 225; Sr. Matt Cummins, Katy Faith West, 6-2, 270.

QB: Daniel Forrest, Katy Faith West, 6-2, 200; Sr. Backs: Ivan Cooley, Trinity Christian Cedar Hill, 5-10, 215; Sr. Erik McCown, Arlington Grace Prep, 5-11, 170; Sr. Brad Robinson, Carrollton American Heritage, 5-9, 200; Sr. Tallivant Arcaux, Katy Faith Christian, 5-11, 190; Sr. Receivers: Brandon Rice, Katy Faith West, 6-3, 190; Sr. Josh Roark, Watauga Harvest, 6-0, 170; Sr. Tight End: Dustin Trutt, Midland Trinity, 6-1, 180; Sr. Kicker: Chad Garner, Galveston O'Connell, 5-10, 185.

First Team Defense
Line: Scott Dale, Arlington Grace Prep, 6-4, 280; Sr. Brian Wang, Fort Worth Southwest Christian, 6-7, 280; Sr. Stephen Vonschleicher, Carrollton American Heritage, 6-2, 190; Jr. Brandon Batten, Galveston O'Connell, 5-10, 225; Senior Linebackers: Dustin Trutt, Midland Trinity, 6-1, 180; Sr. Erik Lee, Austin School for the Deaf, 5-10, 200; Jr. Henry Torres, Galveston O'Connell, 5-10, 200; Sr. Tyler Lott, Katy Faith West, 5-11, 205; Sr. Caleb Ward, Arlington Grace Prep, 5-11, 175; Jr. Secondary: Chad Garner, Galveston O'Connell, 5-10, 185; Sr. Brandon Woolridge, Carrollton Christian Academy, 6-1, 185; Sr. Chad Lanes, Giddings State School, 5-7, 155; Jr. Tim Cluley, Wichita Falls Notre Dame, 5-11, 170; Sr. Punter: Cody Milson, Arlington Grace Prep, 6-0, 185.

Second Team Offense
Linebackers: Michael Shines, Carrollton American Heritage; Rashad Green, Fort Worth Cavalry; Joseph Fisher, Giddings State School; Jeessung Yi, Midland Trinity; John Hargrove, Trinity Christian Cedar Hill.
QB: Rob Gasey, Carrollton American Heritage; Backs: Kris Price, Fort Worth Southwest Christian; Nathan Pille, Midland Trinity; Derrick Watson, Wichita Falls Notre Dame; Ronald Briscoe, Austin School for the Deaf.
Receivers: Paul Beach, Carrollton American Heritage; Mike Balford, Galveston O'Connell; Tight End: Brian Wang, Fort Worth Southwest Christian.
Kicker: Colin Shull, Tyler Gorman.

Second Team Defense
Linebackers: John Bester, Galveston O'Connell; Erik Grogg, Katy Faith West; Jason Zamer, Tyler Gorman; Fernando Alvarez, Austin School for the Deaf.
Linebackers: Robert Patterson, Watauga Harvest; Aaron Hill, Tyler Gorman; Aaron Federickson, Carrollton American Heritage; Martin Roberts, Amarillo San Jacinto; David Bowman, Katy Faith West.
Secondary: Josh Roark, Watauga Harvest; Jonas Fuller, Amarillo San Jacinto; Austin Eudaly, Arlington Partridge Academy; Brandon Rice, Katy Faith West; Sergei Glemmer, Austin School for the Deaf.
Punter: Chad Garner, Galveston O'Connell.

Honorable Mention Offense
(Trinity player only)
Linebackers: Clint Adcox, Midland Trinity.

a performance coach Marsha Sharp called flat.

Texas Tech was far from displaying the uptempo style it used against No. 8 Penn State and No. 16 Southwest Missouri in winning the Thanksgiving tournament.

"It was a different type of ball game with Southwest Missouri and Penn State," Tech guard Katrisa O'Neal said. "They were looking to push it and that's our game. That's our tempo."

"When you play Southwest Texas, they try to slow the ball game down and walk the ball up the court to get us out of our rhythm."

The Bobcats felt like they suc-

ceeded by holding Tech under 85 points.

"I wish we had executed a little cleaner," Bobcats coach Suzanne Fox said. "Overall for us, it was a good stepping stone. It gave us a good barometer of where we're at."

The Lady Raiders were led by Jia Perkins' 19 points, while Dionne Brown added 12 points and 10 rebounds and O'Neal scored 11.

Texas Tech (4-0) outrebounded the Bobcats 46-22.

The Bobcats (2-3) worked to slow Tech's tempo. By halftime, the Bobcats had scored only 10 points to Tech's 33.

BASKETBALL

SMU 85, New Mexico State 76
LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — Darnon Hancock scored 20 points and Willie Davis added 19 points and 10 rebounds as Southern Methodist beat New Mexico State 85-79 Wednesday night.

The win was the Mustangs' third straight over the Aggies in as many games.

New Mexico State (2-4) opened the game with a 10-2 run fueled by 3-pointers from Eric Channing and Mikko Noopila.

Texas A&M 79, Morris Brown 46
COLLEGE STATION — Andy Leatherman scored 15 points, and Texas A&M beat Morris Brown 79-46 on Wednesday night.

Bernard King added 14 points and a career-high nine assists for the Aggies (2-2).

Kavon Westberry led the Wolverines with 14 points.

Texas A&M opened up with a 12-2 run in the second half to take a 20-point lead, and Morris Brown (2-5) never recovered.

A&M's defense held Morris Brown to just 32.1 percent shooting from the floor.

JUCO BASKETBALL TODAY

Men

No. 4 Midland College vs. Wayland Baptist JV

When: 7:30 p.m. today.

Where: Chaparral Center.

Record: Midland College is 6-1.

Notes: This will be the Chaparral's first action since Nov. 20 when they trounced the Lubbock Christian JV, 109-60. Against LCU, five Chaps were in double figures. Sophomore Armon Tillman led the way with 15 points.

Next: The Chaps host Mountain View at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 in the last home game until Jan. 15.

added another 13 and Jason Williams had 12. The Chaps played without sophomore post Jerome Beasley (wrist) and freshman guard Danny Gomez (flu). Both players are expected back in action tonight. This should be another tuneup game for the Chaps before Western Junior College Athletic Conference play begins in mid-January. The Chaps have won 11 in a row at home.

Next: The Chaps host Mountain View at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 in the last home game until Jan. 15.

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Section I
Midland
Thursday

Art

By Judy Serbo
MRT Correspondent

Use of hypnosis in police investigations is a topic of the police academy.

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By Danielle

Staff Writer

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Art of hypnosis plays part in modern police force

By Judy Serbantez
MRT Correspondent

Use of hypnosis during a police investigation was the topic of the latest hispanic police academy class.

Manuel A. Beltran, a detective for the Midland Police Department, gave an in depth look into the altered state of mind technique and explained the reasons for using it.

"Hypnosis is used when everything has been looked over and there isn't enough evidence to convict a crimi-

nal," Beltran said. "Hypnosis can be used to extract new evidence, and help break a case."

Hypnosis is difficult to define because everyone experiences it a little differently, he said. Every individual has a unique personality and unique tastes. Beltran asked the class a number of questions pertaining to favorite color and preferences in relaxation modes. Differences in taste were evident. Beltran explained that the key to hypnosis is understanding the per-

sonality of the individual before beginning a session.

Hypnosis is commonly referred to as the waking dream. The method relaxes the body and alters the level of awareness through suggestion and visualization. This level of awareness, called alpha, refers to a state of electrical activity in the brain. Everyone experiences this activity during regular nighttime sleep or even upon waking. The normal waking state is referred to as beta by sleep researchers.

Alpha occurs when someone is half awake or half asleep; this is the level of normal hypnosis. Beta occurs during deep hypnosis and during early stages of nighttime sleep.

During hypnosis the mind is open to suggestions, Beltran said.

"When someone is under hypnosis and I ask them to regress to a certain date, to get them to regress to the moment in which the event occurred, I ask them a number of questions. The questions are very,

very important," Beltran said. "Visualization is different among individuals."

A demonstration followed the discussion. Beltran dimmed the lights and put on soft music. Taking a student to the front of the classroom, he demonstrated a short hypnosis session.

"The sessions last up to hours, but this one is going to be short," Beltran said.

He counted from 10 to 1 and began talking to her in a very deep voice. Five minutes lat-

er, she looked asleep.

"She is in a relaxed state, and not asleep," Beltran said. "He questioned her and she replied without hesitation."

"When he asked us a few questions pertaining to the space shuttle he asked us about what and when it happened. Well, I could remember a few details, but I now understand how hypnosis can help the mind enter another state — a state where details just surface," said student Max Cuelar Jr.

Quinceneros: Young men pick up the tradition

When Thomas Roman Gonzales turned 15 in April 1999, his parents gave him a quincenero. The Lee High School sophomore, said the celebration is one he will remember always.

"When I told my friends about it, they asked me, 'Are you certain?' They asked me what the celebration was about, and why I was having one," Gonzales said. "Only girls turning 15 usually celebrate their birthday with a quincenera."

His mother, Sandra Gonzales, said "I felt that he deserved the quincenero. He kept up his grades and was a good kid. I had heard of guys in other parts of Texas celebrating their 15th birthday like this. I wanted to make it real special for him."

Thomas Roman Gonzales during his quincenero ceremony.



The quincenero is a tradition that is gaining popularity among many Mexican American families.

The custom dates back to the Mayans and the Toltecas.

Catholics celebrate this custom with special awareness to the values, and concerns of society.

Current practice is based on renewal of his or her own initiation into the life of the church. The heart of the ritual is the ceremony of baptismal promises, and a prayer of dedication.

The celebration consists of reflection on the value of turning 15. Symbolism of the ceremony can be reflected in the medal, ring, crown, and flowers. The medal symbolizes

the religious expression of faith, and sometimes a crucifix is presented. The ring symbolizes responsibility with the community and God.

A crown is placed on the head, and represents victory in living a Christian life. Flowers symbolize new life.

"The church requirements for a quincenera or quincenero are the following: They (the candidate)

must have had their first communion and be up to date on their religious education," said Our Lady of Guadalupe deacon, Jesse R. Guajardo. "If they don't attend church often we give them a special blessing. The majority of the people who have a quincenera are very involved with the church," said Guajardo.

Gonzales's "abuela," (grandmother) Maria Roman, helped plan the special event.

"Most people I talked to about the event were embarrassed by it. They would say a guy is celebrating a quincenera and I would correct

them (by saying) quincenero," said Ms. Gonzales. "I mean, it's an outgoing party for a young man. He renewed his baptismal vows and had a special blessing from St. Stephens Catholic Church. I was very proud of him."

Gonzales placed a bouquet of roses near the statue of the Virgin Mary inside the chapel.

He rode a limo to the reception, where Pepe Franco sang for the young man and the group-Norteno 2000 performed for the dance.

Gonzales had a court consisting of 15 boys and 15 girls. His "chambalen" was Marisa Lujan, and she was the first girl he danced with.

"Instead of the crown most young girls receive at a quincenera, his grandfather placed a gray felt hat upon his head," Ms. Gonzales said.

"At the beginning of the celebration he wore a white western felt hat, and when he arrived at the reception the crowning took place."



Gonzales Family

Story by
Judy Serbantez

MISD invites parents of ESL students to get more involved

By Danielle Belton
Staff Writer

Midland Freshman School is working to break down barriers between the Midland Independent School District and Hispanic parents.

Approximately 30 parents and school administrators attended the special luncheon program where parents of migrant and English as a Second Language students learned tips on how to help their children.

The recent luncheon program, entitled "Helping Your Child Learn," is an annual event at Midland Freshman that has been going on for the past five years.

According to Midland Freshman High School principal Don Mason the event has typically been well attended.

"We want to encourage the parents to come and be a regular part of the campus here," Mason said. "The more the merrier."

Mason said that in past, typ-

ically parents of migrant and ESL students have not been actively involved in the campus.

He said that although the school is approximately 40 percent Hispanic, involvement with Hispanic - and most non-Hispanic parents - has been low.

"The goal is to have the parents of our ESL kids and our migrant kids come out and become familiar with the campus," Mason said. "We want to make the parents more comfortable with coming to the campus."

Parents who attended the luncheon in Midland Freshman's library received a pot of flowers to take home.

Some parents won door prizes that included movie tickets and gift certificates. Everyone ate a lunch that consisted of beef tacos, chicken enchiladas, beans and rice.

The parents listened to speakers like ESL teacher, Sandra Inman, MISD dean of at-risk students Linda Harris,

MISD executive director of secondary education Ricardo Torres, MISD director of bilingual and ESL education Maria Mata and bilingual parent volunteer Elisa Morales.

All spoke on the importance of parental involvement and how they could best help their children.

Each left with a work booklet and brochure about MISD's bilingual/ESL program.

According to Mason, in the past the language barrier between parents and teachers has been one of the problems many Hispanic parents have faced.

Despite wanting to be more involved, because of the inability to communicate with administrators, parents were not able to make sure the school was best fitting their children's needs.

Ms. Mata said that while this may have been a problem when she was in school, MISD currently offers many programs, such as this one, that are done in both Spanish and

English to accommodate the parents.

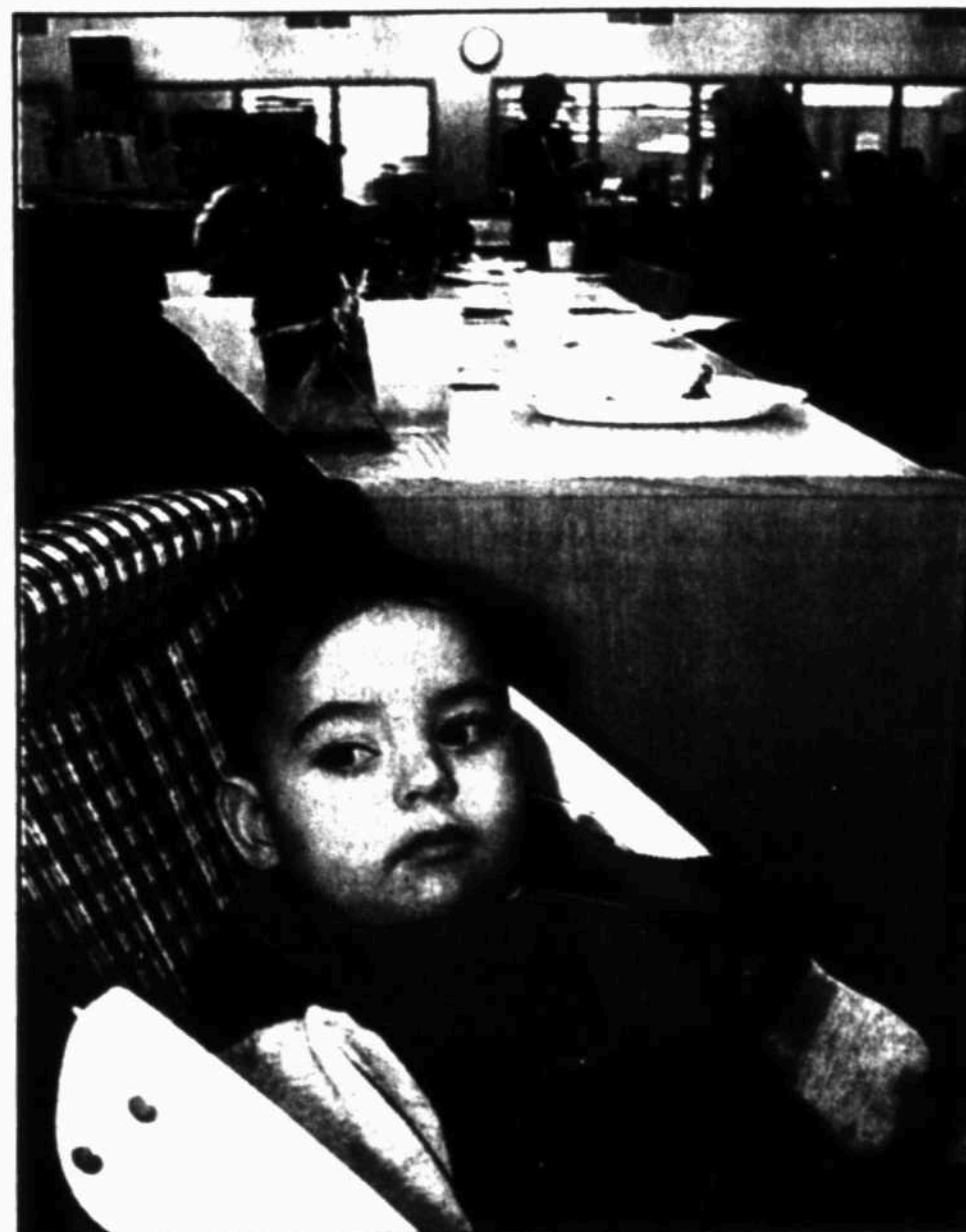
"This is getting the parents into the schools," Ms. Mata said.

"Hopefully what they get here they'll go home and share with their neighbors."

Mason believes that the language barrier is a problem that can be easily overcome.

He said that the school is willing to work with the parents to make sure their children receive the services they need. Mason said that Midland Freshman has several programs in place to help families find out what options are available to them and their children, what classes are available and how they can help make sure their children finish high school and enroll in college.

"We can overcome a language problem," Mason said. "We just want them to come over here. We want those parents to become more involved in activities with their kids," Mason said.



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
Adrian Sanchez, 15-months-old, bides his time while a volunteer addresses the gathering at Midland Freshman High School Thursday afternoon. His mother Aracely, has other children who are currently attending MISD schools.

Lone Star Living: Playing the Texas card

By Chris Riemenschneider
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — The working-class crowd came out in droves and howled at the neon beer signs.

College-age fans crammed near the front of the stage. Older and younger listeners clung to the dance floor and the tables at the back of Bandera's Cabaret Dance Hall. Everyone sang along as Charlie Robison and his band played.

Were it not for the tattered cowboy hats and extra-curve A&M ballcaps, and the fact that the singer's brother is the one named Bruce, you'd have thought you were in Jersey and Springsteen was playing a club gig.

"If you're ever out West, son," the room sang, "and you feel like slowing down/ I'll see you around/ 'round my hometown."

Something radical, if not altogether new, was afoot that night, as it is many weekend nights at the Cabaret and other rickety dance halls and town-square beer joints across Texas. Rowdy country fans alienated by the fluff played on the radio — 12-year-olds singing about world peace, Barbie dolls ba-ba-baaing Pepsi commercials, velvet-clad soap opera stand-ins crooning drippy love songs — are finding new heroes right in their own back yards.

"Guys" guy singers like the Robisons, their friend Jack Ingram, Pat Green, Cory Morrow, Kevin Fowler and the cool, older brother of the bunch, Robert Earl Keen, offer the yin to the sentimental yang coming out of Nashville.

Each plays up his Lone Star independence, throws in a little machismo and fronts some disheveled bar band playing like it was the planet's last excuse to have a good time.

Texas love these guys.

How else explain Green's guaranteed sellout this Friday night after the UT-A&M game at the Austin Music Hall, a venue that only two or three other Austin acts can fill? Or the 100,000 albums that Charlie Robison has sold, largely on native soil?

Or the way the crowds react to Robison's manly lyrics about playing football in high school, working a pipeline in La Grange, blowing money on pot?

He turned some nursery-rhyme lines into a drinking song (his minor radio hit "Barlight"), and his fans seemed ready to nominate him for a Nobel Prize.

The question now is whether folks outside of Texas will be as enamored of these rough-hewn heroes.

Plenty of industry insiders believe they will.

"I think we're just one compelling song away from the dam breaking and a new flood of country music pouring out — most of it coming from Texas," says Mike Kraski, vice president of sales and marketing at Sony Nashville and its subsidiary label Lucky Dog Records.

Kraski's team has signed the Robisons, Ingram and one of the original country outlaws, David Allan Coe. Ingram, whose "How Many Days" broke through to big stations in Texas and smaller radio outlets across the country this year, also sees the tide turning.

"When you're playing places like Nebraska and Wisconsin, and crowds are turning out, and radio DJs are plugging the shows and even coming out to them, you know there's something going on," says the Dallas singer, who's put in some 230 tour dates this year. Like most of these guys, his willingness to get in the van and play out-of-the-way places is another factor that separates him from the cogs in the Nashville machine.

Adds Ingram, "It seems like we're connecting with people in ways Top 40 country music hasn't in a long time."

REBEL RADIO: Oh sure, you've heard the battle cry before: Texans are going to save the world from prefabricated country music and put a curse on all of Shania Twain's houses.

But there are reasons to believe it this time — maybe the best reasons since Waylon and Willie led the Outlaw break of the '70s, a movement this wave aspires to follow.

This week, the first-ever Texas country music chart debuts. Created by Houston-based Shane Media Services, a radio consulting firm that helps stations reach listeners, the chart polls 51 small and not-so-small stations across the state and figures out which Texas artists are getting the most airplay.

It's a tool that creator Ed Shane hopes will be used by radio programmers and retailers across the country.

"The chart offers these artists tangible proof of their popularity," Shane says, alluding to the folding of the Gavin Americana chart two months ago (Shane's chart was in the works before Gavin's shut down).

Gavin's list featured many of these singers.

"Right now, there's no documentation for stations in Fredericksburg, Bryan, Lubbock, etc., that are playing Pat Green and Robert Earl Keen," Shane says. Individually, these markets may not seem too important.

But when you add them up and consider the fact that these are places where country music really matters, I believe (radio programmers) outside of Texas are going to take note."

One of the tried and true tests of country music listenership, the Texas college fraternity scene, appears as devoted as ever to regional honky-tonk. Byron McCaffree, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon at the University of Texas, says Keen is still enormously popular with this crowd, while Green is close behind — "especially with the freshman and sophomores," he says.

Charlie Robison has a ways to go but "seems pretty cool."

Says McCaffree, "I don't think any of

our guys listen to that bubble-gum country or watch CMT (Nashville's MTV). We like the real stuff."

Casey Monahan, an ambassador of regional music as the director of the governor's Texas Music Office, thinks Nashville can follow the example of Texas music fans.

"More country music is sold in Texas than in any other state," Monahan says, "so of course the industry is going to pay attention to what people here are listening to. I think other fans will, too. What country music fan doesn't know that Texas has a rich tradition of artists like Willie and Waylon and George Strait?"

Most devoted country fans are crying out for fewer flashy twits and more acts with common-man flair, as was the case in the '70s, when country music with disc production became the norm and Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson the much-welcomed exceptions. In many markets across the U.S., Top 40 country stations are losing listeners, especially males. Even Austin's almighty KASE-101 FM has fallen in recent Arbitron ratings.

"It just doesn't make sense to have three stations in the same market using the same playlist and airing the same 15 artists," says Sony exec Kaski. That's the case in Dallas/Fort Worth, but the situation is slowly changing thanks to KPLX ("The Wolf").

The Metroplex station is toying with the new breed of Texas country singers, and if all goes well, could set the standard for other big-city stations.

In Austin, a similar shift is taking place at Lone Star 93, the LBJ-S-owned country station that plays Keen and Charlie Robison, but unlike sister station KGSR, also airs Green and newcomers Kevin Fowler and James Hyland.

"Lone Star's support has made all the difference in my career," says Fowler, who regularly sees his album "Beer, Bait & Ammo" in the Texas Top 10 list at Waterloo Records. "Two to three years ago, I don't think a guy like me could've found airplay anywhere."

Says Lone Star 93 program director Chris Knight, "Our listeners love these local guys."

They treat them like freakin' superstars, following them show to show and getting their autographs. ... (But) I don't think it's just that they're local performers.

It's that you can tell the difference between their records and some of the canned, overproduced Nashville stuff. You can just tell."

MR. RECORD MAN: For Texas country radio play to reach another level, it will likely need strong record-label support.

And plugging into the corporate Nashville machine has been problematic for hardheaded Texans since Willie landed at Music Row 45 years ago.

In Austin, things looked promising in the mid-'90s when Arista Records

opened the first-ever major label office here and signed country acts including Keen and Lee Roy Parnell.

But by 1998, sagging business forced Arista Texas to close.

Keen persevered, though, and his situation became emblematic.

First, he demonstrated the drawing power of like-minded Lone Star acts by creating and headlining the Texas Uprising concerts in '99, a redneck Lollapalooza featuring the Robisons, Joe Ely and Kelly Willis. This summer, those shows filled 20,000-seat amphitheaters in California as well as Dallas and Houston. Keen also continued to earn radio play in many out-of-pocket markets.

It's not surprising, then, that Mercury Nashville and Sony's Lucky Dog lined up to sign the Bandera-based singer this summer. Mercury, home to Lucinda Williams, reportedly won Keen over and is close to inking a deal — a bittersweet fact for the Sony/Lucky Dog team.

"We really would've loved to have Robert," says Kraski, "but it just goes to show we're not the only ones who believe there's better country music to be had out there."

Sony is still showing the most support. In its case, though, it may be a Chicks-or-egg issue.

Executives there have followed up the success of the Dixie Chicks by focusing on other Texas acts, ones that may appeal more to male listeners.

Charlie Robison, who's married to the dobro-pickin' Chick Emily Robison, recently climbed up the Sony ladder to join its Columbia Records roster.

Upon the release of his new album early next year, Charlie will be the first artist promoted by both Sony's Top 40 country folks and the hipper Lucky Dog team.

His Lucky Dog labelmate Ingram says, "I think it's great — first of all because Charlie's my bud — but also because any success he has is probably, inevitably, going to reflect on all of us."

What chances for success does Sony have that Arista Texas didn't have a half-decade ago? For one, it's a company with deeper pockets and the momentum of the Chicks behind it. And the climate is ripe for change.

TRUE TO TEXAS: But not everyone is convinced the Nashville machine is the way to go.

Pat Green's manager Jimmy Perkins says his client is probably going to follow the lead of Jerry Jeff Walker and continue self-releasing records instead of signing with a major.

"Pat, like a lot of these guys, has done just fine without any label support," says Perkins. He points out that even if Green were to stick to Texas — where he's played Miller Lite commercials and Bush round-raisers — he'd enjoy a comfortable career. The singer did tour throughout the South this year and "has gradually gotten beyond Texas," says Perkins.

"A label would try to bust Pat's career wide open and see immediate returns, and

maybe not on terms Pat would agree to," says Perkins.

"On his own, it's going to be slower and more gradual, but Pat's the kind of guy who'd rather put in the work and do it his way."

Green's hard-work ethic isn't unique in Austin, but it's questionable how many of our country or "country-ish" bands can get in on this wave of attention.

The Derailers, for instance, are widely regarded as the best honky-tonk band in town, but they don't have the manly, rowdy edge of a Green or a Robison. And like Dale Watson, their music may be too traditional and purist. On the other hand, the Gourds, Reckless Kelly and the Damnationes will probably be considered too raw and rocking to get on country radio.

But the Hollisters, who are managed by Keen and Keen's wife, Kathleen, already have made inroads across Texas.

And Cory Morrow, who has played dancehall opening gigs for years, may see his work pay off in a few weeks with the release of a duets CD with Pat Green.

Even at the top of the ladder, though, no one's holding their breath. Kraski admits that "some, but certainly not all, of the buzz is just wishful thinking," while Monahan points out that "Arista Texas had a lot of hurdles standing in their way, and I'm not sure those have been removed."

Keen and Green's careful reliance on their independent mini-empires can also be taken as a sign of healthy skepticism.

And for all the comparisons to the Outlaws movement, no one has suggested that any of these guys are at a talent level on par with Waylon and Willie.

Still, no matter what happens nationally, most of these singers are happy that something substantial is going on at home.

"It's a good time for country music in Texas," says Fowler.

"At least here, we're getting away from (what), to me, sounds like (the band) Chicago with a steel guitar."

Says Perkins, "I don't know if there's going to be a big commercial breakthrough or whatever, but there's definitely a window opening."

And even if it's only open for a little while, I think that will be enough for some meaningful stuff to slip in and leave a lasting impression. That's how it was with Waylon and Willie way back when, and Lyle, Steve Earle and Nanci Griffith in the '80s."

Talking by phone from a tour stop in Tuscaloosa, Ala., a tired yet excited-sounding Ingram says he shares that optimism.

"Country music goes in cycles where the good stuff breaks through once in a while," he says. "This has gotta be one of those times. I truly believe that, or I probably wouldn't be calling you from Tuscaloosa."

Distributed by Associated Press

DEAR ABBY

Friend's boogie raises couple's suspicions

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have just returned from a week-long vacation at an ocean resort. Another couple, "Al and Gloria," went with us. We booked separate rooms, and for the most part enjoyed each other's company. However, I observed one thing that disturbed me.



Van Buren

As I sat on the balcony one night waiting for my wife to dress for dinner, I saw Gloria walking on the beach. I watched as she picked up a child's boogie board that was lying at the edge of the surf.

When we were loading the trunk of the rental car to go home, she attempted to conceal the boogie board with her luggage.

My wife and I were astonished at Gloria's behavior. We didn't know whether or not we should confront her. On the trip home, I made some jokes about surfing, but I don't think she got the hint.

Abby, should we keep quiet and preserve our friendship, or ask her why she stole a child's toy? — **PERPLEXED IN NEW CASTLE, DEL.**

DEAR PERPLEXED: Much depends upon how close your friendship is with "Al and Gloria." If you feel the friendship is worth preserving, ask Gloria why she concealed the boogie board instead of turning it in to lost-and-found at the hotel. It's possible she thought the board had been abandoned.

If you're not close and do not wish to risk a confrontation, perhaps the time has come to distance yourselves.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to "Sherri in Cincinnati," who wrote that as a lonely teenager she was welcomed into her best friend's family. I agree with your answer, Abby — sometimes it does "take a village" to raise a

child.

I left my husband when my son, "Kenny," was 2. I had to work, and Kenny was raised by a "village." My mother, grandmother, father, brother, sister and friends all took the time to play an important part in his life. When I married my current husband, my in-laws never missed a beat — they immediately became a part of my son's "village," too.

I am proud to say Kenny, now 13, is an incredible person — an honor student, athletic, musically talented and popular among his peers. I frequently receive compliments from teachers and other parents about how polite, kind, respectful and well-mannered he is. When I hear those words, I tell them I wish I could take all the credit, but my son is a "village" child.

Some of Kenny's teen-age friends have troubled lives, and we open our door to them. They spend nights here; we do laundry, cook meals, I help with their homework and display their photos. Some have even accompanied us on family vacations. They feel free to discuss any topic that comes to mind. When our relatives visit, we do not exclude Kenny's friends — we simply expand our "village."

Abby, I would like to thank all of these wonderful souls who took an interest in my son. I never could have done it without them. — **LISA IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR LISA: There is nothing as important in the life of a young person as the involvement of caring adults. Your son seems to have incorporated the talents and finest qualities of everyone with whom he has had contact. Strong role model and unconditional love can heal even the most emotionally impoverished person — and that goes for adults, too.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter is planning to be married next spring. Her fiancé has two children from a previous marriage. Will they become my grandchildren, my stepgrandchildren, the stepchildren of my stepdaughter, or simply the children of the man who married my

stepdaughter?

My wife is teasing me about son, "Kenny," was 2. I had to work, and Kenny was raised by a "village." My mother, grandmother, father, brother, sister and friends all took the time to play an important part in his life. When I married my current husband, my in-laws never missed a beat — they immediately became a part of my son's "village," too.

DEAR WONDERING: If you are married to "Grandma," that makes you "Grandpa." Stop splitting "heirs" and accept the honor graciously, or you may wind up being called a name that's far less complimentary than "Grandpa."

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Just Julie in California," who was upset that her husband carried two pictures of his late wife in his billfold.

I married a widower who not only had pictures of her in his billfold, he also one on the coffee table. He didn't constantly verbalize his love for me, but he showed it in countless ways every day, and I was happy to display a picture of his late wife in our living room. She was part of his life before me, and because I loved him so, I was grateful that he had a happy life before we met. Had it not been for their happy marriage, he might have been a different man than he was then, perhaps one who wouldn't have been so good to me.

My husband died suddenly after only 8 1/2 short years together. I am thankful that I didn't waste one moment of our wonderful life together by being jealous of the woman from his past. Julie should treasure what she has today, and stop worrying about a couple of photos from the past. — **SOMEONE WHO CARES**

CARES: SOMEONE WHO CARES: Your signature says it all. I compliment you on your capacity to love and your common sense. New wives of widowers, please heed her message — it contains a valuable lesson.

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

Mexico accept gays; harassment, violence persists

By Julie Watson
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Edgar Garcia Piscil knows that his tight miniskirts, stiletto heels and big blond curls could cost him his life.

The 21-year-old psychology student has already narrowly escaped being gang-raped in a Mexico City subway car.

He later was attacked on a bus, but the passengers pulled his assailant off him. "No one knows the laws here, nor what our rights are," Garcia Piscil said as he walked alongside a river of sewage in his gritty hometown of Chimalhuacan, outside Mexico City.

But for the first time in this land of machismo, Mexico City police are trying to change the way they deal with gays. Two months ago, in conjunction with Mexico's five-year-old Citizens' Commission Against Hate Crimes, police started distributing flyers titled "It's not always rosy to be gay" and listing 12 ways for homosexuals to protect themselves, along with the S.O.S.

Gay hot line number that connects victims with lawyers.

Until recently, gay rights activists say, police often wrote off murders of homosexuals as crimes of passion. Now they have set up a unit specializing in dealing with homophobic crimes, and are to get sensitivity training.

Homosexuals have made huge strides toward acceptance in the past decade, with two gay-rights campaigners taking up seats on the city council in September.

But human rights activists say that nationally anti-gay violence continues at an alarming rate.

A man in a village in central Mexico recently cut his 16-year-old son to pieces with his machete after the boy acknowledged he was gay; a 25-year-old transvestite named Cynthia was gunned down while standing by a busy thoroughfare in Mexico City. An average of three men are killed each month in Mexico simply for being gay, according to the Citizens' Commission Against Hate Crimes. Most are transvestites. Their deaths appear from time to time in Mexico City's lurid tabloids: A tied-up corpse next to an armoire of flashy

evening gowns. A stiletto heel in a pool of blood. But for the most part, their hushed deaths resemble their lives. Not even their families speak of them. Their attackers remain at large. In August, a U.S. court in an unprecedented ruling said a cross-dressing gay Mexican man was entitled to asylum in the United States because he faced persecution in his homeland. Scores of other asylum-seekers from across Latin America are waiting for their cases to be heard.

Since June, Amnesty International has issued these alerts for the region:

■ In Argentina, police armed with shotguns threatened a transvestite after he denounced the killing of a friend who was allegedly tortured by police in February.

■ In Ecuador, police jailed a dozen transvestite prostitutes and forced them to be tested for AIDS.

■ In Venezuela, the leader of a transvestite group who had been harassed by police was fatally shot.

Weeks later, police arrested other group members, forced them to undress in the street, and beat them. Since being formed in 1995, Mexico's hate crimes commission says it has documented more than 200 homophobia-driven murders.

"Some of these people have been cut up over and over. Others have been dismembered, their genitals cut off, or forced to get down on their knees, tied up and executed," said Arturo Diaz, one of the gay council members, who headed the study. "That's hatred."

Geovanni Hernandez-Montiel of the southeastern city of Jalapa testified in U.S. courts that he was harassed and persecuted by his family, school officials and police, who he said sexually assaulted him. He was also hospitalized for a week after being knifed by a group of men who called him insulting names.

"There are stories like this from nearly every Mexican state," said his lawyer, Robert Gerber. Speaking between dances at Espartacus, a gay disco on the blue-collar outskirts of Mexico

City, Garcia Piscil described how he covers his bruises with makeup and carries on, fighting daily for his lifestyle with quiet indignation, walking the streets clad in dresses and thick jewelry.

"I'm yelled at in the street, rocks are thrown at me," he said. "We're human. We're not animals, but we're treated that way here."

Parents who have found their sons getting a haircut at the salon where Garcia Piscil works have yanked them from the chair in disgust. Police have arrested him and his friends for no apparent reason. He told of an officer offering to release him in exchange for sex. Still, things are changing. Dozens of homosexual support groups have popped up in the past five years. Gay bars have opened on main avenues. At one bar near Mexico City's financial district, a man wearing a glittery robe and platform shoes dances in the window nightly.

When Diaz and Enoe Uranga became councilmen in the federal district, Mexico City newspapers showed Diaz waving the gay rights movement's rainbow flag in celebration as two men behind him kissed. In June, a gay-pride parade drew 30,000 marchers, by the organizers' count. Just five years ago, such parades drew fewer than 1,000 people. During this year's presidential race, contender Vicente Fox's socially conservative National Action Party published a newspaper attacking itself to the gay community, the first time a major political party has done so.

The party is "not against the gay community in any way," the ad said. "In a Fox administration, there will be freedom for people to live without masks."

Fox won the election and takes office on Dec. 1.

Activists worry that what goes for Mexico City doesn't always apply outside it. Posted outside a recreational area, in a northern Mexico town run by Fox's party, was a sign saying: "No drugs. No pets. No homosexuals."

But in another possible sign that gay-bashing is no longer easily accepted, the sign was taken down in August after it was shown on national TV.

Class 5A

Big School Quarterfinals
Region I
Midland Lee (10-5) vs. Carville (11-1), 4 p.m.
Texas Stadium Inv.
Region II
North Mesquite (9-2), 7:30 a.m.
at Waco ISD Stadium
Region III
Allied Hastings (10-2) vs. Eisenhower (12-0), 5 p.m.
Astrodome
Region IV
Austin Westlake (1-1) vs. Carroll (10-2), 7:30 p.m.
Maroon

Small School Regional Semifinals
Region I
Lubbock Monterey vs. Arlington Lamar (8-4), 4 p.m.
Lubbock
Region II
Abilene Cooper (9-3) vs. (7-5), 7 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Inviting

Region III
Tyler John Tyler (9-3) vs. Rock (8-4), 3 p.m. Saturday, 10-2 Stadium
Region IV
Lufkin (8-3) vs. Waco (10-2), 3 p.m. Saturday, 10-2 Stadium

Region II
Katy (12-0) vs. Adkins (10-2), 3 p.m. Friday, Astrodome
Region III
Ald Eskin (8-4) vs. North Shore (11-1), 8 p.m. Astrodome

Region IV
SA Marshall (12-0) vs. (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur (10-2) vs. (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur, Corpus Christi

Class 4A
Big School Quarterfinals
Region I
Frenship (10-2) vs. (4), 1 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Amarillo
Region II
Everman (11-1) vs. (12-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, 10-2 Stadium

Region III
SA Marshall (12-0) vs. (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur (10-2) vs. (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur, Corpus Christi

Region IV
SA Marshall (12-0) vs. (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur (10-2) vs. (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur, Corpus Christi

Region II
Katy (12-0) vs. Adkins (10-2), 3 p.m. Friday, Astrodome
Region III
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Region IV
SA Marshall (12-0) vs. (11-1), 3 p.m. Saturday, SA MacArthur (10-2) vs. (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SA Mac

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2000	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418	1999	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418
2000	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418	1999	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418
2000	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418	1999	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418
2000	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418	1999	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418
2000	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418	1999	CHEVY	MONTE CARLO	\$14,418
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CHEVROLET 1997 271 Teal/grey cloth, 4 wheel drive, third door, loaded, running boards, trailer package. \$16,950. Must sell 550-2278, 550-2756.

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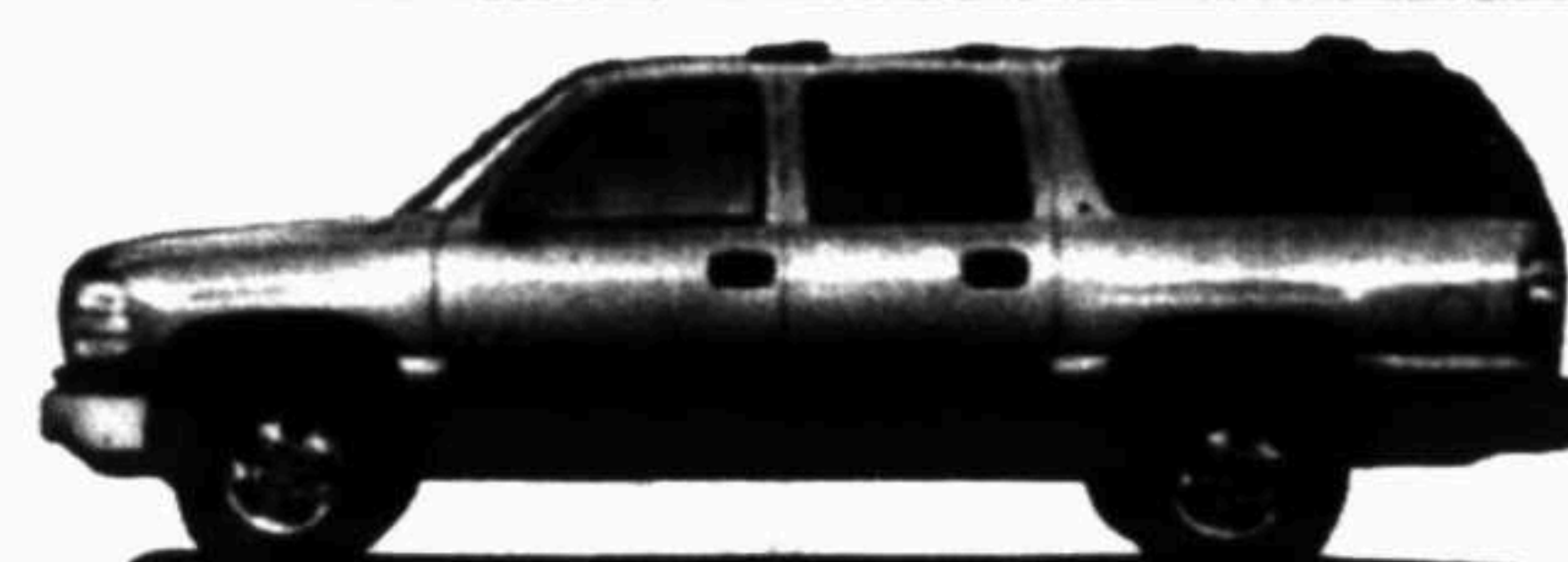
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We need over 400 drivers now. No experience - No Problem. We represent over 40 National Companies that need you. Benefits include great pay, vacation, insurance, retirement plans. Tuition Reimbursement available. Get your new driving job today. CDL Drivers: 1-800-994-2896.

KENNEL HELP needed part time. Cleaning and caring for animals. Apply in person. 8am-1pm 4200 N. Fairgrounds Road.

Attention Readers:

See other opportunities under Classification 170, Schools and Instruction.

Great Income Opportunity

Delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in Big Spring area. need someone reliable with good transportation. Call Ronnie Griffith at 687-8805.

200 Boats & Motors

1998 VIPER 2010, 20' 3", 225 HP, Johnson outboard console, lots of extras, like new. \$22,000. 685-0979.

1998 STEALTH 203, 225 Mercury EFI, bass boat and trailer. Many extras! Like new! Low wholesale book price \$15,500. 697-1953.

1991 19 1/2' CAJUN BASS boat, tandem trailer. 200 HP Johnson, front/back Sonar, spare tire, trolling motor. \$8,750. 694-4915.

TOW DOLLY with spare wheel and tire \$500. Call 682-5983.

LET'S TALK AVON

No fee through 1/3 Great earnings! Call Verie 520-0119. Independent Rep.

PROTEGE SELLDOWN-- ZOOM --- ZOOM --- ZOOM

What's got into us? Actually, a lot.

Power Windows,
Locks, Tilt, Cruise,
Keyless Entry,
Power Mirrors.



\$1,250 CASH BACK
OR
0.0% APR/48 MONTHS!

The 2000 Mazda Protege is a Consumers
Digest Best Buy 3 years in a row.

2000 Mazda Protege LX

It's handsome, reliable, spacious and affordable. *Automobile Magazine Buying and Leasing 2000

	2000 Mazda Protege	2000 Honda Civic LX	2000 Toyota Corolla L
CD Player	Standard	Optional	Optional
EPA Passenger Volume	88 cubic ft.	90 cubic ft.	88 cubic ft.
EPA Cargo Volume	13 cubic ft.	12 cubic ft.	12 cubic ft.
Basic Warranty	3 years/50,000 miles	3 years/36,000 miles	3 years/36,000 miles
24-Hour Roadside Assistance	Standard	Optional	Optional

Jack Sherman



www.jacksherman.com

520-0156 • 694-9601 • 4100 W. WALL • MIDLAND TEXAS

Engineer V/Project Manager

TNRCC is accepting applications for an Engineer V/Project Manager position in the Agency's Superfund Program, Posting #01040, Monthly Salary \$3518-4116, Open Until Filled. Minimum Qualifications: Texas Professional Engineer's license plus six years of full-time general engineering experience or five years of full-time environmental engineering experience. A master's degree in engineering, basic science, mathematics, environmental science or related fields from an accredited college or university (COPY OF OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT ATTACHED TO APPLICATION REQUIRED) may be substituted for one year of the general engineering experience. A doctorate degree in engineering, basic science, mathematics, environmental science or related fields from an accredited college or university (COPY OF OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT ATTACHED TO APPLICATION REQUIRED) may be substituted for two years of the general engineering experience. OR One year of full-time experience at TNRCC as an Engineer IV. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application. The employment history section of the application must be completed. Mailed applications must be sent to Human Resources Division, MC 116, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. State of Texas application forms and additional information are available at the TNRCC Human Resources Division located at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, (512)239-0102. Fax (512)239-0111. EEO/AA/ADA/Employer.

Saulsbury Engineering & Construction

Is looking to recruit a qualified Mechanical Engineer to lead the Mechanical Engineering and Design Group. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 15 years experience in the petrochemical industry, with experience in the control of staff, discipline estimates, vessels, rotating equipment and piping. Knowledge of materials would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be expected to take full charge of the Mechanical department, which includes responsibility for all piping work in addition to both static and rotating equipment.

Contact Saulsbury Engineering at 915-366-3686
Or fax Resume to 915-366-6952.

SADDLERIDGE LODGE
Assisted Living, a gracious retirement residence for active seniors in Midland, is seeking a Certified Medical Aide and CNA's for Full and Part time positions. If you are courteous, attentive and enjoy being part of a team, please stop by our office at 1700 S. Loop West, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701. Application, or mail or fax your resume to: Jenny Beane Saddle Ridge Lodge, 1700 S. Loop West, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701. Fax: 915-687-0355 EOE.

312 Professional Help Wanted
DIRECTOR OF Programs for Youth Agency. Bachelor's degree in Education, Child Development or related field. Apply in person 2300 Butternut Lane EOE.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
for marketing consultants. Requirements: self motivated, ability to lead product, professional appearance, with a desire to help clients while earning a great living. Earn up to 30-50% commission. Start immediately. Call 687-3797.

NEEDED CERTIFIED
Technician- 40 hours great benefit. EOE. Apply within Albertson's #4212, 1002 Andrews Hwy.

REAGAN COUNTY ISD
is accepting applications for the head football coach position. Please contact Ron Mayfield, superintendent, at 915-684-3705. Information or to obtain an application.

NEW TODAY
APARTMENT MANAGER. Accepting applications to manage large complex on the Loop in Midland. Must have experience in property management. Will be working directly with owners. Please fax resume to 417-725-5336 or phone 417-725-5358.

318 Help Wanted
MANAGER OF POWER SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT. Responsibilities include operation and maintenance of 138 kv transmission lines and substations. Must have ability to prepare, recommend and manage departmental budget, and possess necessary computer knowledge and skills. Must have demonstrated management ability and 10 years of progressively responsible experience with an electric transmission system of rated 115 kv or higher is required. Send resume to: Mark Sullivan, Engineering Manager, Cap Rock Electric, P.O. Box 7802, Stanton, Texas 79782.

320 Skilled Trades
ALARM MONITOR. Wanted. Local Alarm Company looking for alarm monitor to work full time in a non-smoking environment. Must have clean police record. We will train the right person. Non smoking environment. Send resume or come by 1011 West Washington, Midland, Texas 79701.

NEW BUSINESS
Looking for Receptionist/Office Assistant. Experience in Microsoft Word & Excel a must. Experience in Quick Books a plus. Salary DOE. Mail resume to P.O. Box 3872, Midland, TX 79702.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Responsibilities include: receptionist, cashier, payroll and accounting. Computer skills required. Fax resume, salary and work history required to: 915-264-6897 EOE.

OP PERSONNEL
Temp & Perm Positions. Benefits & Bonuses Available. 682-0033 or 570-0197.

Global Personnel Network
Positions Local & Worldwide! 688-8390.

RECEPTIONISTS
\$6.25/hour- paid training. H&R Block, 552-9998.

316 Sales Help Wanted
LICENSED AGENTS. Needed \$75,000+ per year. 915-522-1218.

SEWELL Family of Dealerships

Join One Of The Industry Leaders

Training...
2 week initial training and ongoing training.

Management...
Management dedicated to your success and customer service.

Image...
Be a part of one of the most respected companies in Texas and a leader in the automotive industry.

Compensation...
Commission, bonuses, paid vacations quarterly and yearly and earn your own demonstrator.

Benefits...
Medical, Dental, Retirement and more!

PROFESSIONAL Sales Consultant

At SEWELL PRE-OWNED CARS and TRUCKS of MIDLAND we have brought 65 years worth of experience, tradition, integrity, and customer service in the Permian Basin to Midland. The Sewell family of dealerships has been serving Texas since 1911, and has been serving Odessa since 1935. Our new dealership in Midland has continued this legacy of success built on customer service. We are adding sales professionals to expand our market penetration and to help service our extremely loyal customer base.

If you are serious about a career choice where you will be compensated by performance and not limited to a wage or salaried pay scale, apply today. Automotive experience is not necessary, however professionalism is. If you are ready for a career change in an exciting industry with one of the most respected companies in the country- apply today. Call 498-0200 to set up a time to apply. Please have resume and references.

SEWELL

Lincoln • Mercury • Toyota

SALESPeOPLE NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to sell? The Midland Reporter-Telegram is seeking neat & dependable individuals to work evenings and weekends offering subscriptions to non-subscribers. Great source for extra income. Unlimited potential. What are you waiting for? Apply today!!

Matt Brown
Apply in Person at:
201 East Illinois
Midland, TX 79701

SALESPeOPLE NEEDED

Stanton & Big Spring Area
Do you have what it takes to sell? The Midland Reporter-Telegram is seeking neat & dependable individuals to work evenings and weekends offering subscriptions to non-subscribers. Great source for extra income. Unlimited potential. What are you waiting for? Apply today!!

Matt Brown
687-8886
or 201 E. Illinois, Midland

WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?
10 Salespersons are needed NOW to sell subscriptions to the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Season is here. Enhance your income for the holidays! Unlimited earning potential.

MATT BROWN
687-8886

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LINER AND/OR COMPLETION SPECIALISTS WANTED

Major international oilfield service company looking to hire qualified liner and completion specialists. Immediate openings available for rotation positions. Send resume to:

Box P-6096
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram
P.O. Box 1650
Midland, TX 79702

All responses will be kept confidential.

JANITORIAL PROJECT MANAGER:

Full time position- Midland Area.
Must read/write English- Bilingual a plus.
Opportunity for growth.
Well organized, hard working, good communication skills with customers and front line employees.
Drug Test and Background Check required.
EOE

Fax resume (713)523-1341.

338 Adult Care Providers
A & D SITHING Service. Affordable and dependable care for the elderly. 24 hour service! Call Joann 570-8142.

341 Child Care Providers
CHRISTIAN HOME has opening for your child. 699-4534.

Let Classified Work For You!

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NEW TODAY
EARN EXTRA \$\$\$ for Christmas. Midland Park Mall is seeking sharp individuals to provide customer assistance at our Marketplace during the Christmas season. Requirements include strong communication skills and the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. Starting wage is \$6.36 per hour. You may pick up an application at the Mall Management Office next to J.C. Penney.

EXPERIENCED
Help needed to care for the elderly. Reliable transportation and telephone a MUST. All shifts available. M & J Sitter Service, 580-8523, 4500 W. Illinois, Building 2.

NEW TODAY
LOCAL MOVING. Company needs experienced movers. (915)553-1464.

MAID NEEDED.
Must be able to work five days a week. References required. Must have dependable transportation. Call 580-3707.

MECHANIC for late model vehicles.
Must have all tools, transportation, dependable 520-0204.

MICHAEL'S Charcoal Grill
now hiring experienced short order cook & cashier. Apply in person only 9:00 am- 11:00 am. 723 West Wesley.

NOW HIRING for Waitstaff
at Bamboo Garden Restaurant, 4400 N. Midland Drive. Apply in person.

PART TIME Child Care
needed in church nursery. Responsible person with experience. Apply at FCC, 800 W. Texas.

RELIABLE and experienced
drain cleaner needed for plumbing company. Must have good references, neat appearance and good driving record. Apply at 1005 W. Industrial. Working hours 8:00am- 5:00pm. 683-3224.

WHIRED
EXPERIENCED Waitstaff and dishwasher. Apply within XXXXX Cafe, XXXX W. I-20, XXX-XXXX.

WHIRED
IN ONE DAY. HELP WANTED in small cafe downtown. Temporary part time- from 8:30 to 1:30, five days per week. Could work into full time part time. Call before 11 at XXX-XXXX or after 1:30.

SEDONA GRILL
New Restaurant hiring all positions. Please apply 2101 West Wesley, Plaza Oak shopping center. 12-2 pm. 5-7 pm.

SHOGUN RESTAURANT
is hiring waitstaff, delivery drivers. Apply between 5-8pm. Loop 250 @ Garfield. 570-8888.

Western Beverages
Now hiring Part Time Retail Associates. Good hours & benefits. Apply in person @ 4706 North Midland.

NEW TODAY
TILE SETTERS helper needed. Experience. 570-5831 or 631-6638.

Home Hospice

Home Hospice has openings for the following position:

• Full Time R.N.

Preference will be given to RN's with hospice, oncology, and/or med-surg experience. E.O.E.

Excellent salary and benefits.

Fax Resume to: 570-0866 OR Apply At: 1802 West Wall

Midland Surgical Associates, P.A.
is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Position requires medical terminology and typing proficiency, computer and communication skills, and familiarity with all types of insurance, PPO's and HMO's.

Vascular Tech
Position requires sonography and doppler proficiency in the performance of carotid and lower extremity evaluations, segmental pressures and PVR's. Computer, communication and people skills a must.

Office Hours Monday- Friday, 8:30-5:30. Excellent benefits which include health insurance, vacation and sick pay, retirement plan. Send resume to: Box J-5008, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

TRINITY TRANSPORTATION
of Odessa currently has OTR driver positions available from the Odessa/Lubbock area. Starting pay is \$28 per mile, loaded empty, and we average 2800-3500 per week. We also offer weekly pay with advances. Minimum requirements are: Class A CDL, 6 months experience, good driving record, and must be willing to stay out 12-14 days. 888-517-7981.

V.I.P. Employment Services
686-9722. Industrial Workers needed. Long short term assignments.

WAITPERSONS
needed at Green's Restaurant, Call 682-2132, from 9 am to 11:30 am and from 1 pm to 2 pm for interview.

WANTED EXPERIENCED
Machinist must be able to cut threads. Salary & benefits based on experience. Needed immediately. Location Midland. Call 915-570-7577 is set-up interview.

WHIRED
XXXXX is currently seeking Dishwasher- full time position only. Please apply in person: xxx-xxxx.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:
Licensed PTA. Call Chiropractic Center at 697-1643 to set up an interview.

NOW HIRING E.M.T.s
all levels. Call Texas West Ambulance 570-4992 or fax resume to 520-2501.

311 Help Wanted
\$100.00- \$300.00. RNs: \$25 to \$45 • LVNs: \$18 to \$35 • Medical/ Dental/ 401K/ Life. Fax Resumes to 550-9398 NURSEFINDERS, 550-9398. E-mail us at NFOdesatr@cs.com & register to win a trip to CANCUN!!!

316 Sales Help Wanted
LICENSED AGENTS. Needed \$75,000+ per year. 915-522-1218.

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LICENSED AGENTS. Needed \$75,000+ per year. 915-522-1218.

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LICENSED AGENTS. Needed \$75,000+ per year. 915-522-1218.

MARTY'S MARKET PLACE



Do you need to get rid of some of your extra goodies around the house?

Don't want to spend a lot of cash?

*Marty's Weekday Special

3 Line Ad
1 Item Priced \$300 or Less
Monday through Thursday ONLY
\$4.00

Call or Fax Classifieds today to schedule your special Marketplace ad!

682-6222
Fax 682-6999

*Private Party merchandise ads only. 1 item per ad. Price must be in ad to qualify. Other restrictions may apply, ask consultant for details.

100 Miscellaneous Sales

WHY PAY RENT? 10x12 storage buildings \$29.00 a month on remaining inventory. Delivery/financing available. 915-583-3108.

BEDROOM SET: Triple dresser with mirror, chest, nightstand. \$300. View Sonic computer monitor. \$75. GE Profile built-in oven, almost new. \$150. 689-9610, evenings.

CHRISTMAS TREE. \$80. Two French doors. \$30 each. Two child strollers. \$60. 520-0001.

MUST SEE Adorable Baby girls clothes size 0-18 months and toys. Call 684-6-72.

PEACOCK ALLEY, queen or double bed, covered. Beautiful, off white lace. Never used. \$90 (104"x94"). 682-9190.

5.4 CU. INCH Chest Freezer, good condition. \$35. electric stove, good condition. \$50. Call xxx-xxxx.

500 GALLON Propane Tank with wet line. \$350. New gas grill & amp. \$400. 563-5538.

TODDLERS OPENING: Established Home Day Care. Meals, loving & learning environment. Excellent references. 684-8871.

CHILD CARE in my home Monday-Saturday, newborn through age five. Have references. 563-0796. (c)631-0498.

CHILD CARE: 7 to 5:30 Monday thru Friday. CPR trained, loving, learning environment, references. 687-1923.

MAIL BOXES ETC. Franchises for sale. 877-MBE-SALE or www.mbe.com

M&M MARS. \$3,000 month (realistic). 20 vending sites. 6 hours/month. \$9,800 cash required. 1-800-268-6601 (24 hours).

Get your Real Estate license quickly, short, day, weekend, evening classes. Southwest College 687-7277

Attention Readers: Occasionally, ads found in this section come from distant points & the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract or giving out your credit card or bank information.

Auctions: Saturday, December 2, 2000. Starting promptly at 11 am. Viewing: Friday, December 1, 2000. 9 am - 5 pm. Most lots without reserve. New items. Used items. 10% Buyers Premium come in anytime during the week. Some items for liquidation before auction. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, cash, personal or business checks accepted. We will accept Proxy Bids. 915-563-1349 Eagle Auctioneers and Liquidators, 2636 Fedree Rd. Odessa, TX 79765. S. Little Roundtree Auctioneer #13551.

FIRST ANNUAL YEAR-END CLEAN YOUR YARD SALE!!! Auction: December 8-9, 2000. Now accepting consignments. Oilfield, construction, trucks, trailers, pickups, cars, tools, industrial, commercial, real estate. Harway Auctioneers, Ltd. #7753. 561-9992. 4500 S. County Road 1, 1310, Odessa.

What's Read? Classified is. Studies show that more readers turn to Classified every day than almost any other section of the newspaper. Call Classified Today! 682-6222

100 Miscellaneous Sales

SWINN LADIES 12 speed road bikes. Excellent condition. \$75 each. 684-7702. 685-1285.

4 NONSTOP Round Trip airline tickets to Las Vegas- leaving December 8th, returning December 9th. \$175 each. 683-3390/520-8012.

SLIGHT DAMAGE- 12'x24' garage/ storage building. Tubestore, heavy papers. \$450 per foot. Call 267-3126 ask for Mike Evans.

WEIDER Home Gym- 7 stations, like new. \$250. Weight bench, exercise bike, Reebok Basketball shoes (10-12). 586-8418.

MOVING BOXES, enough for a four bedroom home. Like new- \$100. 683-1515.

FOR SALE: Share of Stock in Green Tree Country Club. Full membership benefits. Call 522-7872.

ANNUAL PERMIT for Moss Creek Lake. Immediate family get in free for 1 year. For information call 915-393-5246.

BINGO, American Legion, 501 Airpark Road, Friday nights, games start at 8. Food, Refreshments. 682-5511.

FOR RENT: 1000 sq. ft. house. 682-5511.

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

Residential rental locations are required to be licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission (P.O. Box 12188, Austin, TX 78711. 1-800-250-8732 or 512-465-3960). www.hud.gov/hudrcim.htm.

RENTAL: 600 Rooms for Rent. 601 Hotel Rooms. 602 Rooming Houses. 603 Want To Rent. 604 Apts. Furnished. 605 Apts. Unfurnished. 606 Houses Unfurnished. 607 Condo/Townhome. 608 Condo/Townhome. 609 Mobile Home. 610 Mobile Home. 611 Mobile Home. 612 Mobile Home. 613 Mobile Home. 614 Mobile Home. 615 Mobile Home. 616 Mobile Home. 617 Mobile Home. 618 Mobile Home. 619 Mobile Home. 620 Mobile Home. 621 Mobile Home. 622 Mobile Home. 623 Mobile Home. 624 Mobile Home. 625 Mobile Home. 626 Mobile Home. 627 Mobile Home. 628 Mobile Home. 629 Mobile Home. 630 Mobile Home. 631 Mobile Home. 632 Mobile Home. 633 Mobile Home. 634 Mobile Home. 635 Mobile Home. 636 Mobile Home. 637 Mobile Home. 638 Mobile Home. 639 Mobile Home. 640 Mobile Home. 641 Mobile Home. 642 Mobile Home. 643 Mobile Home. 644 Mobile Home. 645 Mobile Home. 646 Mobile Home. 647 Mobile Home. 648 Mobile Home. 649 Mobile Home. 650 Mobile Home. 651 Mobile Home. 652 Mobile Home. 653 Mobile Home. 654 Mobile Home. 655 Mobile Home. 656 Mobile Home. 657 Mobile Home. 658 Mobile Home. 659 Mobile Home. 660 Mobile Home. 661 Mobile Home. 662 Mobile Home. 663 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